

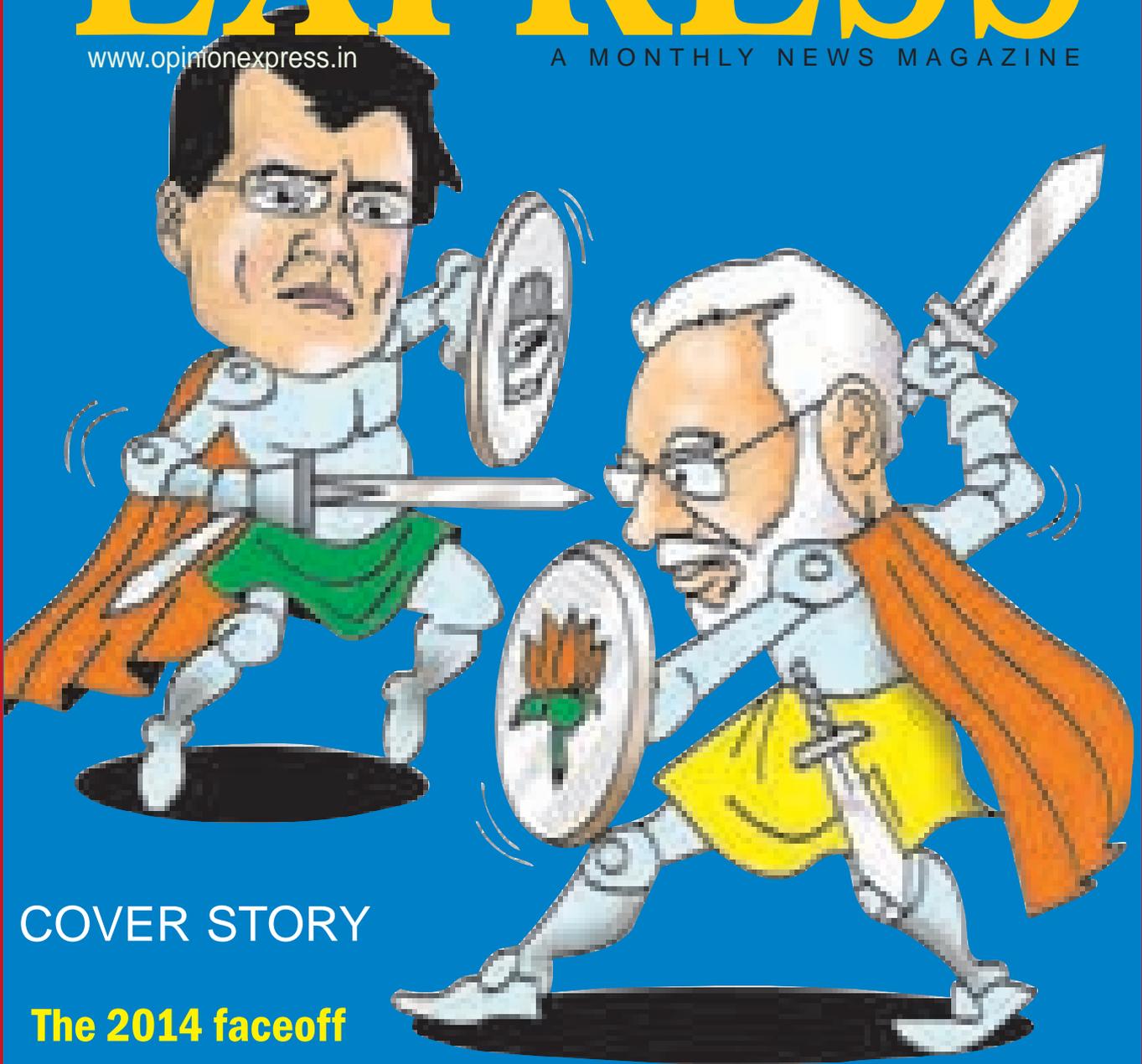
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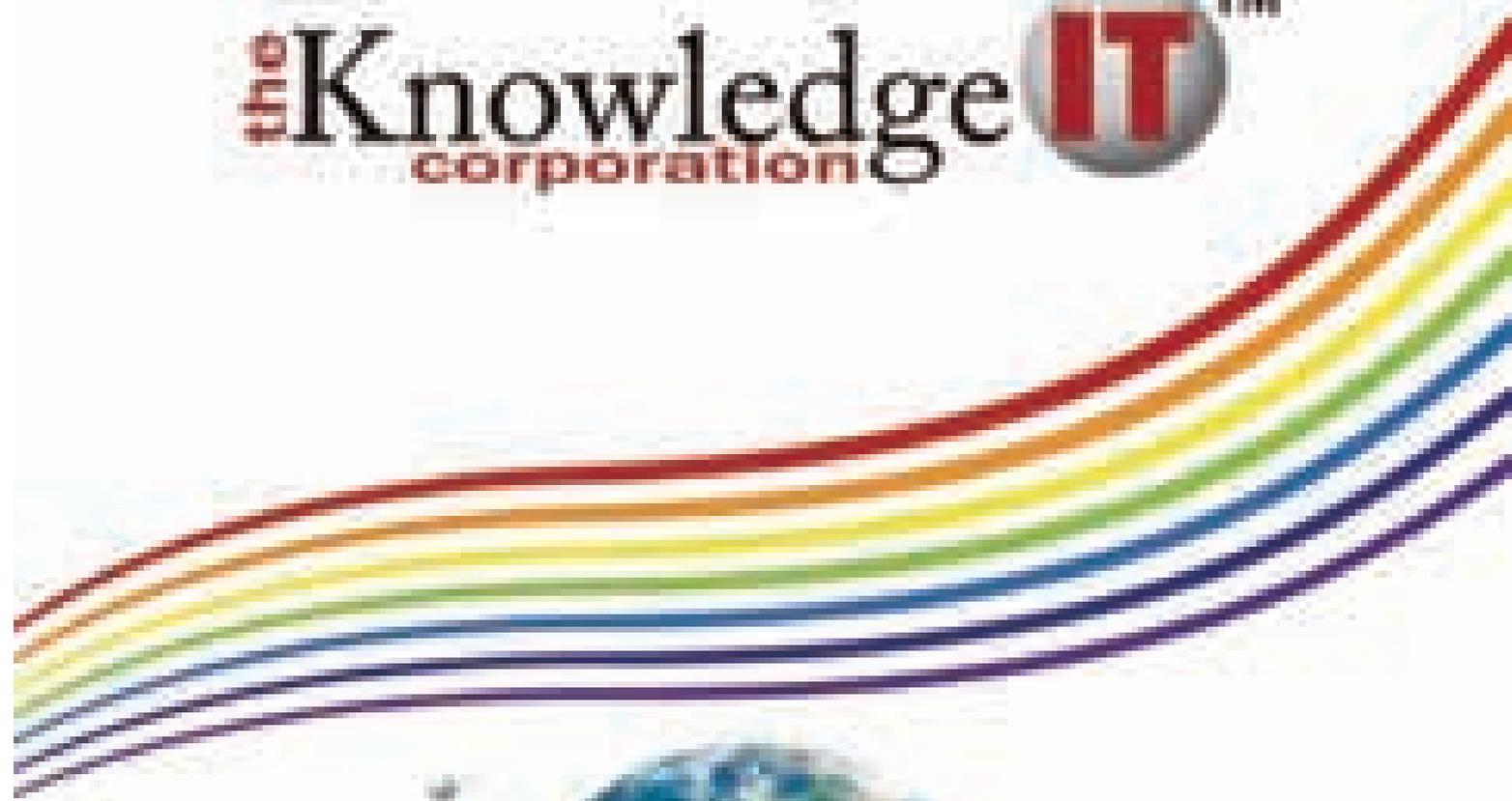
COVER STORY

The 2014 faceoff

THE INHERITOR VS THE CHALLENGER

Modi's victory and Rahul's anointment has set the stage for a titanic clash

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India is a land of contradictory opportunities



Rampant corruption, inflation, sagging economy, rape, loot & murders!! India comprise of 2.5% land mass of the total land available to humans and 18% of the entire world's population is living here. The native are completely stressed out by the sheer lack of natural resource availability.

The corruption, internal security crisis, rape, inflation are offshoot of the massive population explosion that India has witnessed in the last few years. Post Independence, the planners have failed to visualize this enormous crisis that is potentially more dangerous than a ticking nuclear bomb.

The governance in India is failing rapidly irrespective of party and leadership, people are on roads every time there is slight instigation on anti corruption rallies, rape protest, religious unrest. Now we need a visionary leadership that thinks for the nation rather than immediate seat of power, else we are doomed. The population time bomb is likely to demolish us in a very near future. The crisis is unprecedented and we have limited solutions, China model of one child is partly successful but it will lead to the ageing problem in next three decade that country like Japan is facing today.

Surely with the limited options, we are riding a tiger. Yes, the governance is lacking teeth because we have no established pan India leadership. Congress party now under Rahul Gandhi or BJP under Narendra Modi have limited influence in certain pockets of the country. The regional parties have no accountability; all of them are largely driven by caste and religious lines wherein the chief of the party acts like landlord with no development agenda in hand. Today we have almost 50% of the state governments that are in clutches of regional strongman hence the universal macro development of the country is a distant dream. To lay uniform laws for entire country is impossible now with conflict of interest amongst regional political parties.

How we can bring national pride to entire India? How we can impart universal governance to all? How to impart instant Justice System? India must adopt uniform civil code with strict implementation to safeguard our macro national interest. We need to solve this puzzle soon or just accept the fact that we may have to live in a system that has failed us and people will be seen more on roads agitating for every small issue that circumstances will throw to them.

Prashant Tewari



COVER STORY

RAHUL GANDHI VS NARENDRA MODI BATTLEGROUND

- Rahul Gandhi's political journey so Far
- Modi the challenger
- Narendra Modi is the Prime Ministerial material

P 6-21



RESURGENT RAJNATH SINGH NO PUSHOVER FOR MODI

P 22



P 25 | We are no longer prepared to put up with ineffective leaders

P 27 | A new global role awaits India

P 30 | Challenges of policing in India

P 37 | Pantel Technologies: Journey to a glorious success

P 48 | Gopio launches GADAR centennial commemoration in the USA

P 50 | Why Parsis are India's finest citizens

BRILLIANCE PERSONIFIED CARLYTA IS A GIFT OF BRAZIL TO INDIA

P 45



WOMAN OF SUBSTANCE IN NEW EMERGING INDIA

P 43



Bridging gap between India & Indians - Kapil Dudakia

P 35



CONFLUENCE OF FAITH

The Kumbh, the biggest congregation of mankind in the world, started at the Sangam in Allahabad on Makar Sankranti. Over 10 crore devotees are expected to take part in the religious confluence that will continue till March 10. The Maha Kumbh happens every 12 years when the planets are in maximum alignment. Based on an ancient Hindu myth, and has been going on since at least the 5th century. More than 80 lakh people took a holy dip in the Sangam on the first day itself.

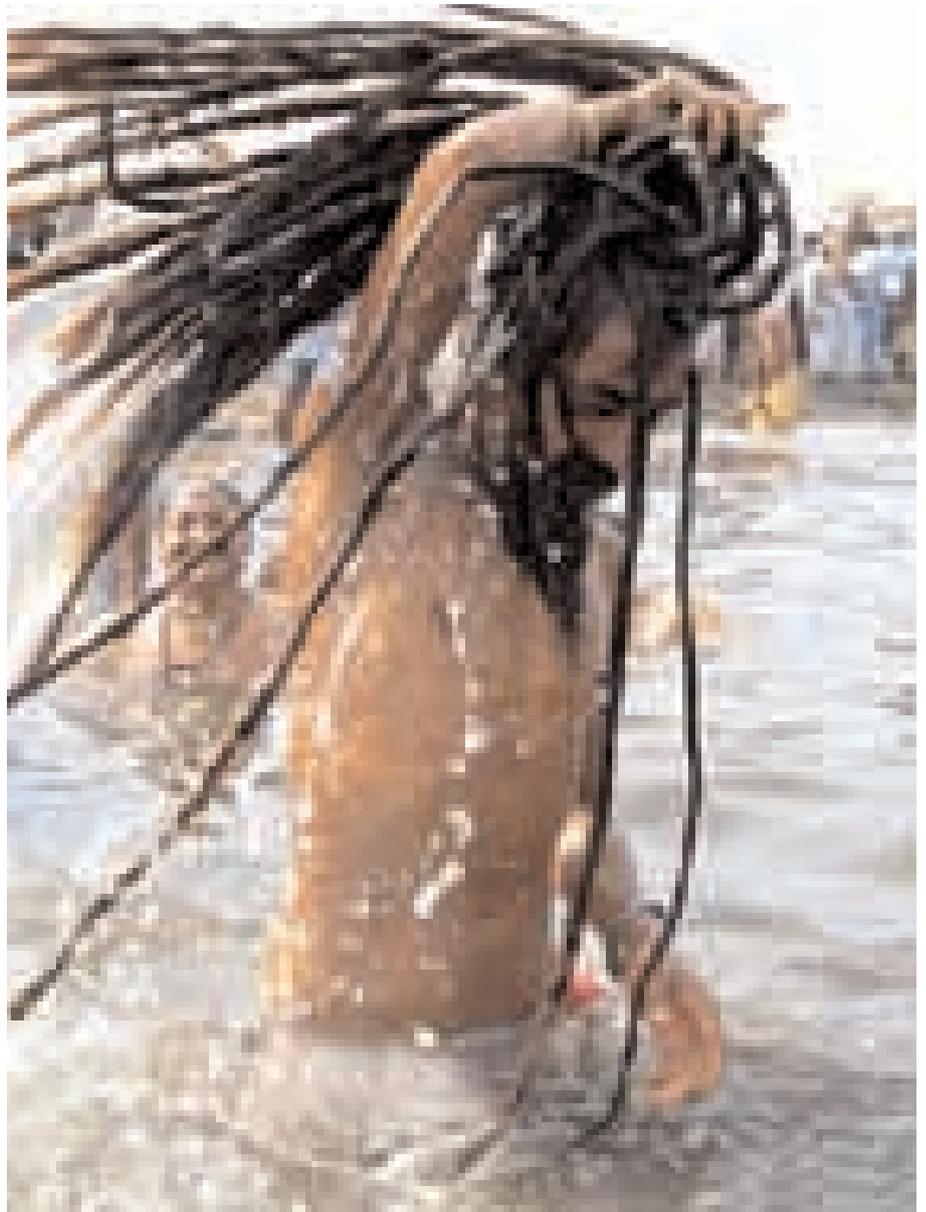
The Maha Kumbh Mela is an age old hindu festival where saints, monks, babas, sadhus and gurus gather together, on the banks of the Ganges, Yamuna and Saraswati rivers, near Allahabad, India. It is a religious bathing festival of enormous size where pilgrims, and religious devotees will come from their remote dwellings and hiding places to gather for a historical moment. They come to experience the essence of their culture and to participate in the largest spiritual gathering of humanity, the Maha Kumba Mela.

The Kumbh Mela area is spread over an area of around 1,936.56 hectare. Of the total, 172.11 hectare belongs to mela administration, while 217.03 hectare is defence land. The mela kshetra has been divided into 14 sectors to smoothen the stay of people

More than Rs 1,035 crore have been sanctioned for the Kumbh Mela by the Centre while 990 officials from different departments have been deputed to supervise the proceedings of the mela besides 28,000 temporary and permanent employees which includes police, health, PWD, Jal Nigam, tourism, transport etc have been performing their duties round the clock

Over 25,000 police personnel including 125 companies of central police forces have been deployed in and around Kumbh to ensure the safety and safety of pilgrims Para-commandos, binoculars, Sniper apparatus for STF/ATS personnel, vehicle navigation system with GPS and control room 89 CCTV cameras have been installed on the Kumbh campus and 28 other at strategic locations in the city 56 watch towers have been set up in Jhunsi and Arail areas to keep an eye on the mela kshetra

The cops on duty have been provid-



ed with bullet-proof jacket, body protectors, poly carbonate shield, poly carbonate sticks, dragon lights, 7.62 mm bolt action rifle, AK-47 rifle, 0.9 mm carbine, 0.9mm pistol, teargas gun and protector mini-flame

The UP Tourism department claims to have trained over 4,000 persons including 180 porters, 1328 taxi-auto drivers, 650 home guards, 288 GRP personnel and 90 railway staff including catering and commercial staff who are all set to welcome pilgrims with their polite gestures and acting as guides for mela visitors.

For any emergency, a 100-bedded general hospital having facilities of ultrasound and an ICU has been raised on the mela ground.

The sectors have a smaller health facility that works like a community health centre. Additionally, 10 zonal hospitals, two infectious disease hospitals and one police hospital with 20 bedded facilities each have also been set up Uttar Pradesh State Road Transportation corporation (UPSRTC) would be plying 6,000 buses for ferrying passengers from Allahabad to other cities. Officials claim that 262 buses will make 604 trips to other nearby religious towns like Chitrakoot, Varanasi, Ayodhya etc while on royal bathing days, as many as 660 buses will make 1,655 trips. Temporary bus stations have been set up at Phaphamau, Naini, and Arail to check overcrowding.

(By OECEL News Services)

MODI CLOSER TO CENTRESTAGE TO TAKE ON THE GANDHI SCION

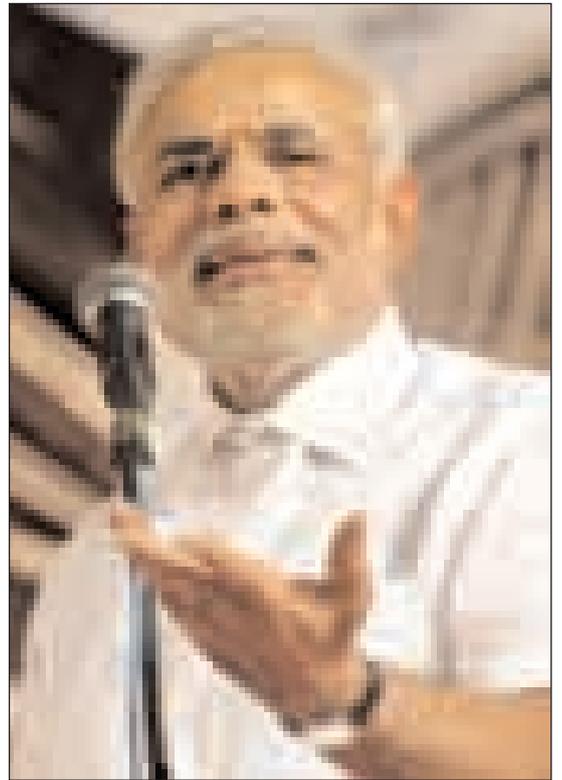
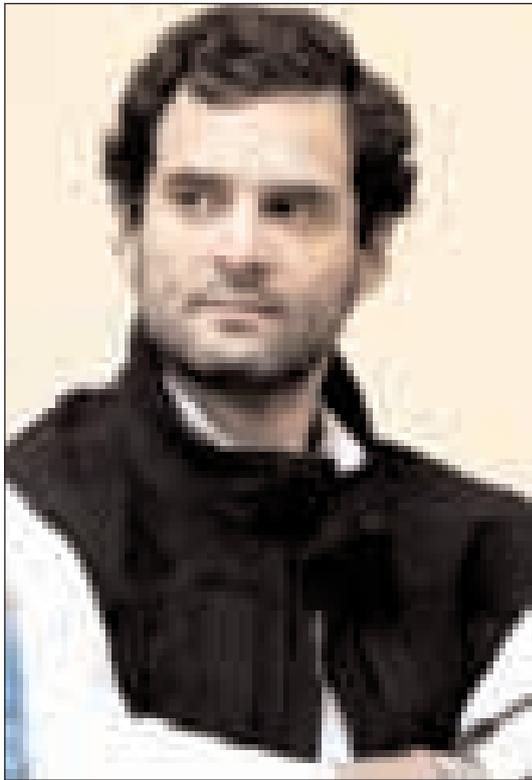
It is official now, 2014 General Elections in India would be Rahul Vs Modi clash. Rahul Gandhi's elevation as the Congress' number 2 has heightened anticipation that the General Elections 2014 will be a personality clash between him and the BJP's Narendra Modi. The Congress, always refuse to make comparisons between the two, dismisses it as a "media joke."

Even as the clamour in the Congress to declare Rahul Gandhi the candidate for Prime Minister for next year's elections reached a fevered pitch at the party's poll strategy meet in Jaipur over the weekend, senior Congress leaders quickly pointed out that the party traditionally does not name a leader. Though unofficially everybody in Congress believe that Rahul will lead party in the coming general elections.

Party general secretary Digvijaya Singh told, "The Congress party does not declare the PM candidate because we don't want to take away the right of newly-elected legislators to choose their leader. This is basic in parliamentary democracy. Therefore, we don't declare

"That (Rahul Gandhi vs Narendra Modi in the 2014 elections) is a big joke made by the media," Mr Singh added.

In Jaipur, senior Congress leader and minister Jairam Ramesh said in India elections were not a contest between



“The Congress party does not declare the PM candidate because we don't want to take away the right of newly-elected legislators to choose their leader. This is basic in parliamentary democracy. Therefore, we don't declare That (Rahul Gandhi vs Narendra Modi in the 2014 elections) is a big joke made by the media

Party general secretary Digvijaya Singh

people, but between parties. "2014 will not be a contest between Modi and Rahul. It's always party versus party," he said.

The BJP is reportedly set to appoint Mr Modi - who just registered a huge win

in the Gujarat Assembly elections to get a fourth term as the state's chief minister - as the head of its election campaign committee. In that role he will be the face of the opposition party for next year's elections. Mr Gandhi has already



been given similar charge of the Congress' committee for election strategy, making comparisons inevitable.

But Congress leaders cast Mr Modi as a regional satrap; Mr Gandhi, they say, is a leader with a pan-India appeal.

What Rahul Gandhi did admit in his maiden speech at Jaipur was that the Congress had failed to mentor leaders, which had cost the party dear in states which had strong individual leaders or regional parties. "The Congress party has not been able to build up reasonable leadership'...whether you see Bihar or UP or West Bengal or even Tamil Nadu we have this problem."

Digvijay Singh added that "In Gujarat also Narendra Modi has created a cult for himself. Of course, the first casualty after Narendra Modi goes is the BJP itself, because there is no BJP there, only Narendra Modi."

Mr Singh was analysing Rahul Gandhi's much-watched first speech after he was appointed Vice-President of the Congress. Mr Gandhi asked his partymen to help reverse a system in India where power was "grossly centralised" and said 40 to 50 leaders, all capable of running the country must be identified and mentored.

And an unimpressed Arun Jaitley, one of the BJP's seniormost leaders, said of Mr Gandhi, "The world's largest

Mr Singh was analysing Rahul Gandhi's much-watched first speech after he was appointed Vice-President of the Congress. Mr Gandhi asked his partymen to help reverse a system in India where power was "grossly centralised" and said 40 to 50 leaders, all capable of running the country must be identified and mentored.

democracy cannot be put to risk by risking ourselves in the hands of those whose actual potential we don't know, whose opinions on various subjects we do not know, whose policy regarding various issues we do not know."

For the BJP, said Mr Jaitley, "It will be tried, tested and proven ability. The best will become our leader." Mr Modi's supporters in the party say he is that man and that he should be named the BJP's candidate for PM. But the party has multiple claimants to top posts. It also has

to contend with the fact that Mr Modi does not enjoy universal acceptability among partners like the Janata Dal United in the National Democratic Alliance it leads.

The Indian media is confused on Rahul Gandhi's core leadership traits. N Ram former Editor-In-Chief, The Hindu, said, "Rahul Gandhi's programme lacks essential details. We don't know what he stands for. Of course, he wants change, but change for what end? Rahul has supported welfare measures but on and off sporadically, looks instrumental. He's an obsessive organisational man, believes in grassroots organisation. That's good."

"Here is a person whose position cannot be challenged, above the fray, who'll allow the rest of the minions to create systems. The question of his position of how he got there is not going to be asked," said senior journalist and columnist Swapan Dasgupta.

During the debate, IBN18 Editor-in-Chief Rajdeep Sardesai also added that Rahul faced a tough task of rehabilitating the Congress. "The problem is that Rahul Gandhi faces a tough task of rehabilitating the Congress which is facing a crisis of organisation, of electability. So he gave a good critique and pulled them out of denial, but it is to be seen whether he can walk the talk."

AND THE CHALLENGES

Bumpy road ahead for Rahul Gandhi

10 things the Gandhi scion must focus on, to assert his role as a leader of his party... and of the masses

Has he given any fresh food for thought to the party leadership at Chintan Shivir in Jaipur? Or was it just old wine in a new (read emotive) bottle? Has Rahul Gandhi done anything tangible to alter the grand old party's style of functioning? Stupid, it was a speech!

The newly-elected vice president of the Congress delivered his speech against a backdrop of persistent complaints that few knew what he stood for. For years, he displayed an aloofness and disinterest that drove Congressmen to the edge of despair. Rahul concluded his speech by saying, "For me, the Congress party is now my life." It obliquely admits the worries expressed earlier about Rahul having made up his mind to be in public life.

The biggest problem of the Congress is: it is once reformist, but twice shy. A handful of senior leaders in the Congress is convinced that reforms can bring forth electoral gains. There is no effort made to persuade the people of India, especially those in rural areas,

that economic reforms will also bring to them welfare, that wealth-making can be every Indian's dream. The cold rationality of economic reforms can be connected to the emotions of the people. This requires a change of mindset, not the system.

At present, India's oldest political party has nothing credible and convincing to offer the people of the country. It has no message to take to the people. The Congress is still directionless in policy matters. Here is a classic example: Congress boss Sonia Gandhi's call to end nepotism from the same stage on which her son was crowned a day earlier. With general elections about one year - or maybe a little more - away, will India take mother-son duo rhetoric seriously? His powerful surname and relative youth make him the Congress' main hope for elections in 2014.

Shantanu Bhattacharji takes off the blinkers and shows Rahul Gandhi the bumpy road ahead ...

1) The 42-year-old leader has to establish a disconnect between the party's old-school outlook and the larger aspirations of today's assertive youth force. Congress workers want political heavyweights to lead the party in Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and many more other

states.

2) The corruption that has reached the highest levels in the Congress surely belongs to a bigger league.

The refusal of party and government to acknowledge this fact has been made worse by their arrogance towards the common citizenry.

Rahul must showcase some big-





bang punitive actions against the corrupt.

3) Rahul Gandhi also faces a potential adversary in Narendra Modi, should the saffron party project him as its prime ministerial candidate. He still seems somehow stuck in the image of a youth leader discovering India rather than one ready to lead it.

Modi has proved to be an able administrator. Rahul has a number of failures in his political career and has been at the receiving end not only from the opposition but even UPA allies.

He has failed as a strategist, which was visible during 2012 Uttar Pradesh assembly polls where he campaigned aggressively. In Bihar too Rahul proved to be a dampener. However, the Hindutva poster boy has superbly projected himself as the 'messiah' of 'development'.

4) The party cannot regain its lost glory without winning back the back-

ward classes, Dalits and tribals, especially in Hindi heartland. Any drastic policy change will further antagonise the party's traditional vote bank.

5) Rahul needs an immediate image makeover. He must be seen as a no-nonsense politician. The days of identity politics were not over and he can even learn the art of social engineering from US President Barack Obama. Opportunities have presented themselves to Rahul in the past couple of years but he failed to grab them. When Sonia Gandhi went overseas for treatment of a serious ailment, he might have taken charge and confronted the anti-graft campaigners such as Anna Hazare and Arvind Kejriwal. It is high time to take the bull by the horns.

6) The leader of the young brigade in the Congress needs a scalpel and not a cleaver, to cut the credibility crisis facing the party thanks to corruption scandals and perceptions of inefficient gov-



ernance. A central theme as well as a slogan needed before the 2014 general election that would encapsulate the party's emphasis on welfare and employment generation, on the lines of Indira Gandhi's famed Garibi hatao. He has to explain to the aam aadmi the reasons for the ceaseless rise in the prices of essentials, unpopular decisions such as the LPG subsidy cap, and the eruption of so many corruption scandals.

7) To galvanise the rank and file, the party must stop giving prominence to turncoats. Loyalists feel that leaders defecting from other parties are too readily given official posts or election tickets. Those who came from outside and occupied key positions in the Congress include P Chidambaram, Jaipal Reddy, Sanjay Nirupam, Mohan Prakash and Raj Babbar.

8) Rahul reminded the party - and the country - of the personal losses suffered by the Nehru-Gandhi family. It may prove counterproductive as focusing too much on tragedies can invite charges of exploiting such issues. "... power is poison..." it will keep the urban voters wondering as at what length he will go to personally lead a government if and when the opportunity presents itself before the party again.

9) Experts say he has an urge to improve the lives of poor Indians, but no real idea of how to do so. He must show some hardcore skills as a leader before campaigning starts in 2014. He must set short and long-term goals for the party and for himself, as well. It should select 250-300 winnable constituencies and devote disproportionate resources for them.

10) Rahul has many challenges and the clock is ticking fast towards the May, 2014 general polls. He has to act as an interface between party workers across the country, strike up a bond with present and future UPA allies and justify every action the Manmohan Singh government takes under a grim economic situation and coalition compulsions.

It's a cliché: nothing succeeds like success and Rahul's future depends on the party's success in winning the coming assembly polls in nine states, keeping workers' motivation high and bringing an element of moral value in every UPA-Congress action. To just think in Jaipur is not enough.

*By Prakhar Mishra Political Editor /
Inputs from Business standard &
International press.*

Rahul Gandhi's political journey so far

Rahul Gandhi is now the official number two of the Congress party, designated vice-president and with only his mother, Sonia Gandhi, as his boss remains the party President. The elevation came after months of anticipation and years of clamour from an adoring Congress, a party hard-wired to expect generations of Nehru-Gandhis to lead it.

So ever since he made his political debut about a decade back, there has been a growing chorus in the rank and file of India's oldest party demanding that Mr Gandhi, who represents the fourth generation of the Nehru-Gandhi family in politics in Independent India, to take on a greater role in the party and government. In Jaipur, as the party met to devise its strategy for the 2014 general elections, it reached a fevered pitch.

Mr Gandhi's elevation was inevitable; Congress leaders admitted it was just a matter of when he was ready to accept the "bigger role." He is the great grandson of India's first Prime Minister, the grandson of its first woman Prime Minister, the son of its youngest Prime Minister and also of the party's longest-serving chief, Sonia Gandhi. Congressmen expect him to head the party and be India's Prime Minister one day. Among the loudest demands in Jaipur this weekend, was that he be declared the party's candidate for Prime Minister in 2014.

Rahul Gandhi was born in Delhi on June 19, 1970 to Rajiv and Sonia Gandhi, their first child. He grew up in the non-political part of the family. Rajiv, his father, a commercial pilot, was not Indira Gandhi's intended politi-

cal heir; his uncle, Sanjay Gandhi was. But Sanjay Gandhi died in a plane crash in 1980, forcing a reluctant Rajiv Gandhi to enter politics. Just four years later, in 1984, Indira Gandhi's assassi-



Twenty years later, Rahul Gandhi, then 34, was another reluctant entrant into the political fray. Mr Gandhi first fought the Lok Sabha elections in 2004, contesting from the traditional family constituency of Amethi, which his father had once held. As he campaigned, Amethi embraced him warmly, fondly making comparisons between father and son. The people of Amethi had no doubt then that they were sending India's future Prime Minister to Parliament.

nation would propel him to the forefront of the Congress and see him become India's youngest Prime Minister at age 40.

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In an electoral upset, the Congress wrested power that year from the BJP-led NDA and has not let go since. In the nine years of UPA rule, there was much speculation every few months that Rahul Gandhi would join government or accept a fancy designation within the party. But he only became one of the party's general secretaries in September 2007 and accepted charge of the Indian Youth Congress and National Students Union of India (NSUI).

His supporters insist that he must be credited with initiating reforms in the party – such as elections to the youth Congress, corporate-style interviews for selection to the party, and pushing for democratisation of the Congress party.

KJ Rao, a former Election Commission observer, says, "He stood by his words, when he said that no person with a criminal background would be allowed to contest elections in the Youth Congress and NSUI."

But there have been persistent question marks over Mr Gandhi's ability to translate his personal charisma and ideas for the party into votes when it matters. He chose winning back Uttar



Pradesh (UP) - once a Congress stronghold and where it has been out of power for a long while - as the centrepiece of his electoral agenda. He made several high-profile visits to the homes of Dalits in the state to win their support. He even took then British foreign secretary David Miliband on one of his rural night-stays in UP. But, in both 2007 and 2012, he was unable to help the Congress post significant gains.

In 2012, in fact, the Congress got four seats less than it did in 2007, winning just 28 out of the 404, despite the much-touted 'Rahul factor'. Another young leader, Akhilesh Yadav, rode a tidal wave of support for his Samajwadi Party to become Chief Minister.

Rahul Gandhi took the blame squarely on the chin. He made a rare appearance before television cameras and said, "I led the campaign from the front, and the responsibility for the loss lies with me." He then turned and walked away, his arm around his younger sister and staunchest supporter, Priyanka Gandhi.

UP was not Mr Gandhi's first electoral misadventure. In the 2010 Bihar Assembly elections, Mr Gandhi famously urged the Congress to fight alone, without alliances. The Congress won just four seats in a 243-seat Assembly. His political rivals smirked, questioning his political acumen and ability to deliver electoral success for the party.

Nitish Kumar, the Bihar chief minister, ridiculed Mr Gandhi: "He wants to become the prime minister of India. First let him at least become the chief minister of a state. Let him learn governance." Senior BJP leader Arun Jaitley said, "Our opponents think that elections can be fought and won only on the basis of the charisma of families."

The Congress defended him stoutly. Minister of External Affairs Salman Khurshid had then said, "Mr Rahul Gandhi came into the campaign with an attitude of courage. He said, 'I am going there to build the Congress,' and not necessarily to fight and win an election. It was too early to fight and win an election."

He has faced much criticism also on being reticent about sharing his views on crucial issues. Most recently, he was panned for his belated and bland statement following the brutal gang-rape of a medical student in Delhi in December 2012. The man whom the Congress calls its young face could not connect with the youth who took to the streets of Delhi by the thousands to protest the incident and the government's incom-

petent handling of its aftermath. His 66-year-old mother's simple but powerful appeal on the same day made many compare the response of the two leaders.

But Congress veterans and young guns alike say they are sure Mr Gandhi is the man to galvanise the party and lead it to a third straight victory in the Lok Sabha elections slated for next year. They credit him with promoting young faces in the Congress and his close aides say he has detailed political knowledge and is a practised backroom operator. Upon his elevation, Corporate Affairs Minister Sachin Pilot said, "It has energised the party workers throughout the nation. We will go to the next Lok Sabha election with a renewed vigour now. Rahul will be a unifying force for Congress."

Political observers say that there will be no overnight transformation in the Congress thanks to Mr Gandhi's ascent to the no. 2 position. "Mrs Sonia Gandhi is, by temperament, cautious and wants to accommodate senior, established leaders. Rahul, of course, wants to promote more of his contemporaries... for a few years we will see a Congress that has both the old and the new," political scientist Zoya Hasan.

Mr Gandhi, a bachelor, was educated in India and in the US and has worked in London. In his political avatar, he favours a white kurta pyjama with sports shoes and often sports a stubble or sometimes even a full beard. Till some years ago, he was spotted sometimes racing a motorcycle in Delhi with his brother-in-law Robert Vadra, much to the chagrin of those charged with his security.

They have often also been stretched as Mr Gandhi, who has the highest-level security, has slipped into crowds of people and mingled with them. He rode pillion on a motorcycle one early morning to reach the site of farmers' protests in Bhatta-Parsaul village in Uttar Pradesh. Or another time, got into a local train in Mumbai to reach the venue of a political meet.

Yet Rahul Gandhi has a task in hand. Nobody knows about his priority on liberalisation that contradicts the socialist approach of Nehru. The liberalisation ushered in India by late Narsimha Rao from 1991 is largely credited to Dr Manmohan Singh by Rahul Gandhi but he remains associated with left wing idea of Aam Aadmi. Secondly, his foreign policy inclination is never discussed on public domain despite he is in charge of the party since



last decade or so. Rahul failed to connect with Hindi heartland during the last few years of active politics wherein UP & Bihar largely driven by caste politics has shown no interest in his brand of politics. Though to be honest, Rahul

Gandhi has tried to connect with the people, toured India and understood largely how complex governance of India is before accepting the crown.

Prashant Tewari Editor-In-Chief

NARENDRA MODI

THE CHALLENGER

The recent Gujrat assembly elections victory has posted Narendra Modi to the centre stage of national politics. He has always shown keen interest in national politics even while staying in Gujrat in the last few years. For many Indians, Narendra Modi is the man of the moment, a possible prime minister. Others see the chief minister of Gujarat as a Hindu zealot who did not stop the massacre of Muslims in religious riots a decade ago.

As the 62-year-old moved from village to village on the campaign trail this month, he was greeted by ecstatic crowds, surging forward to catch a glimpse or to touch him as though he were a living god.

As the 62-year-old moved from village to village on the campaign trail this month, he was greeted by ecstatic crowds, surging forward to catch a glimpse or to touch him as though he were a living god.





Modi has not only won a fourth consecutive term as chief minister in the Gujarat Assembly elections, he is also seen as a serious contender to take on Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and now Rahul Gandhi newly elected Vice President of Congress party in national elections due in 2014, especially with a convincing win in Gujarat.

"Look at how many people are here," Modi said in an interview in his campaign bus, pointing and waving at a crowd of thousands assembled in Alina village. "They're even standing on the rooftops in this heat," he said, tapping a Reuters photographer's shoulder, indicating to him to take more snaps.

In many parts of India and overseas, however, Modi is remembered for being in office during the Gujarat riots in 2002 that killed more than 1,000 peo-

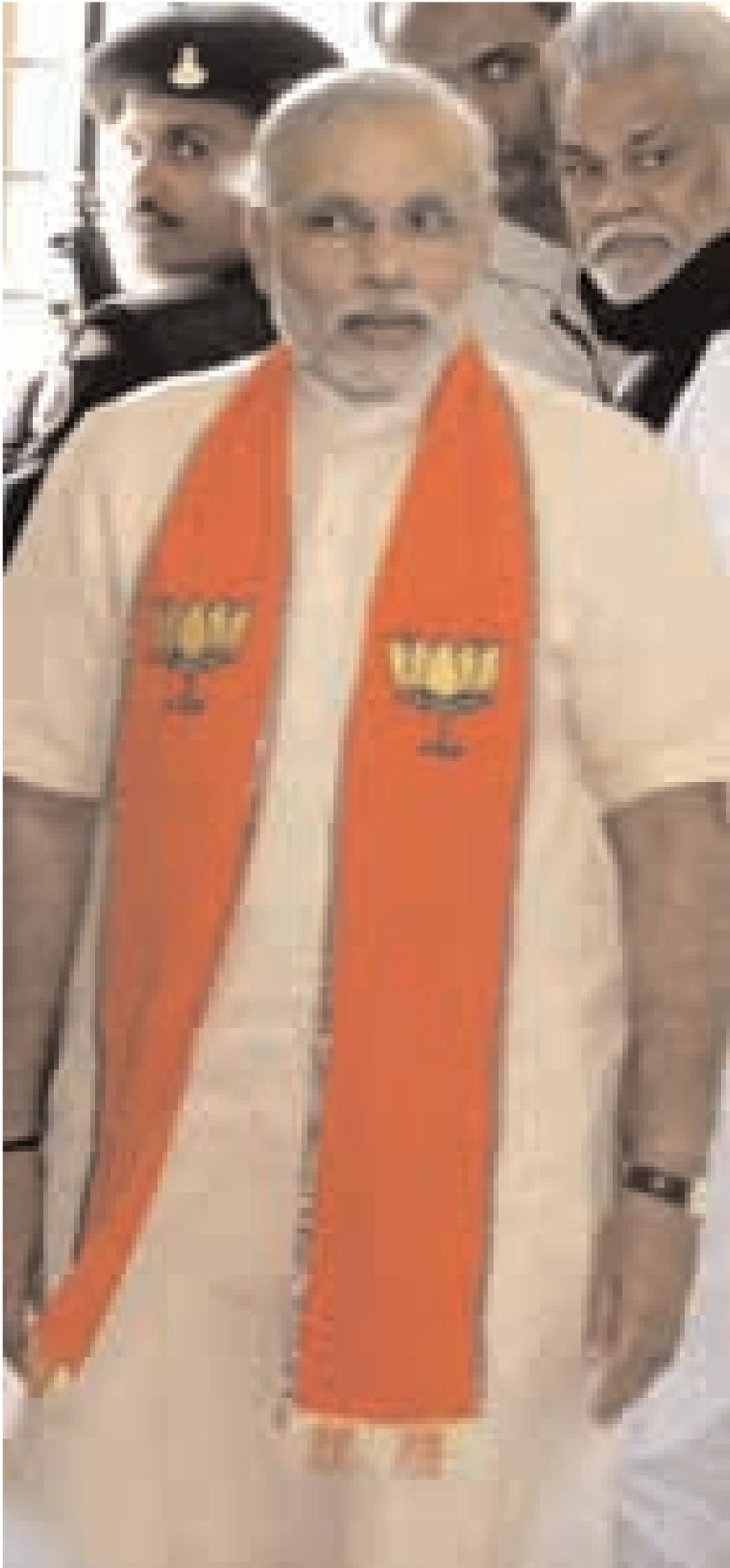
His slow rehabilitation has been thanks in large part to projecting the administrative efficiency that the rest of India seems to lack. Gujarat is an investor favourite, attracting global firms such as Ford Motor Co, Maruti Suzuki, GM etc while Modi has benefited from a concerted image makeover.

ple by official count, mainly Muslims. NGOs and other groups put the death toll around 2,000. His administration was seen as culpable, and for years Modi was a political pariah, vilified at home and shunned by the West.

His slow rehabilitation has been thanks in large part to projecting the administrative efficiency that the rest of India seems to lack. Gujarat is an

investor favourite, attracting global firms such as Ford Motor Co, Maruti Suzuki, GM etc while Modi has benefited from a concerted image makeover.

In a sign of his growing clout, the British ambassador to India went to Gujarat to visit Modi recently. It was a policy turnaround on London's part, and a major boost in Modi's quest to be accepted as a mainstream political leader.



Critics accuse Modi of not doing enough to stem the violence in 2002, or even quietly encouraging it - allegations he has strenuously denied and have never been proved in inquiries. A former member of Modi's state cabinet, Maya Kodnani, was sentenced to 28 years in jail for the violence. Kodnani, a gynaecologist, handed out swords to Hindu rioters and exhorted them to attack Muslims, according to witnesses.

The question now is whether Modi can build on this momentum and use Gujarat's high growth to overcome the deep distrust and fear of many Indians, especially Muslims.

"Narendra Modi may be the darling of India's entrepreneurs and he's perhaps the only person who a whole bunch of well-heeled industrialists have openly said that they would like to see as the prime minister of India," said political analyst Paranjoy Guha Thakurta.

"Despite his best attempts to refurbish his image, I don't think he's ever going to live down that particular phase of his administration where Muslims were systematically targeted and massacred in Gujarat."

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VINDICTIVE STREAK

Interviews with officials in Modi's government and local business leaders paint a picture of a man with a phenomenal memory, great attention to detail, unflagging energy and a flair for publicity.

But they also show a man with a vindictive streak, capable of holding



grudges for years and intolerant of dissent.

Critics see Modi as a divisive figure who may struggle to win the backing of his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the country's main opposition, in a general election.

"If you are on the dislike list, then you're finished," said one government source, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

A company executive, who has met the chief minister several times, recalls leaving one of Modi's functions early - only to be reminded about this when they met again, months later.

"He remembers every little detail," the executive said. "Nothing escapes

Narendra Modi was born to lower middle class parents in northern Gujarat. As a youth, he worked in his family's tea stall, according to a sympathetic biography.

him."

Narendra Modi was born to lower middle class parents in northern Gujarat. As a youth, he worked in his family's tea stall, according to a sympathetic biography.

After some years wandering through the Himalayas on a journey of spiritual

discovery, Modi rose through the ranks of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, a Hindu nationalist organisation that is the ideological parent of the BJP.

A stocky, bespectacled man with a trimmed white beard, Modi is known for his ascetic lifestyle and enthusiasm for yoga. Local media say he married at a young age, but he has never publicly acknowledged this. He has no children.

Modi first became chief minister in October, 2001, just months before the religious riots. Washington denied him a US travel visa in 2005 for religious intolerance, although this year the US consul-general in Mumbai joined Modi at a public event, seen as a sign of a possible rapprochement.



DOUBLE-DIGIT GROWTH

Modi's star has steadily risen in the past decade, and he could represent the BJP's best chance to defeat the ruling Congress party.

"Gujarat is in such a position where I don't have to make any special effort to build investors' confidence," he told Reuters. "Gujarat has already won a huge amount of confidence, not only nationally, but globally too."

While national economic growth has slowed sharply, Modi's Gujarat has achieved the double-digit expansion to which India aspires as a rising global power. In contrast to huge power shortages that plague most of India, the state boasts uninterrupted electricity supply.

Companies have lauded Modi for the ease of doing business in Gujarat, the speed with which land can be acquired for factories and a comparative absence of bureaucratic delays that can throttle projects elsewhere.

Rasesh Desai, managing director at

the \$112 million-a-year tea group Wagh Bakri, praised Modi's energy and how quickly his government processed clearances for expanding an existing plant.

"If you meet him at six o'clock in the morning and again at eleven o'clock at night: same Modi," Desai told Reuters. "He'll not feel tired."

Sceptics have questioned how much Gujarat owes its prosperity to the current administration, arguing that the state has long been known as one of India's growth drivers.

He brought new businesses to Gujrat by holding investor summits every two years that attract some of the country's biggest business tycoons.

Modi has also made concerted efforts to project himself as a moderate. He is trying to promote religious harmony and has toned down his speeches, shifting their focus from Hindu revivalist rhetoric to trumpeting investment.

Modi's critics have dismissed his

efforts.

"If a man like him can even be chief minister for this long, there's something seriously wrong with our society," said M Hasan Jowher, head of a Gujarat-based NGO.

"Somebody who ought to have been languishing in jail, behind bars, or tried for culpable homicide if not genocide, he is presiding over a large state and is being viewed by a large mass of people as a messiah."

Finally Chief Minister Narendra Modi is likely to head the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) campaign committee for the 2014 Lok Sabha elections. NDTV has learnt that Mr Modi has the backing of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Singh or RSS for the crucial role in what is expected to be a bitterly fought election. Modi has emerged a national face for BJP that probably party was lacking after the exit of Atalji from the active politics, surely he is in a position to write history in Indian politics.

By Diwakar Shetty, Gujrat Bureau

NARENDRA MODI IS THE PRIME MINISTERIAL MATERIAL

Vote for him in the December's Gujarat Assembly elections and pave the way for him to be the Prime Minister of India. That will save the Hindus and the India, appeals the Indian American Intellectuals Forum.

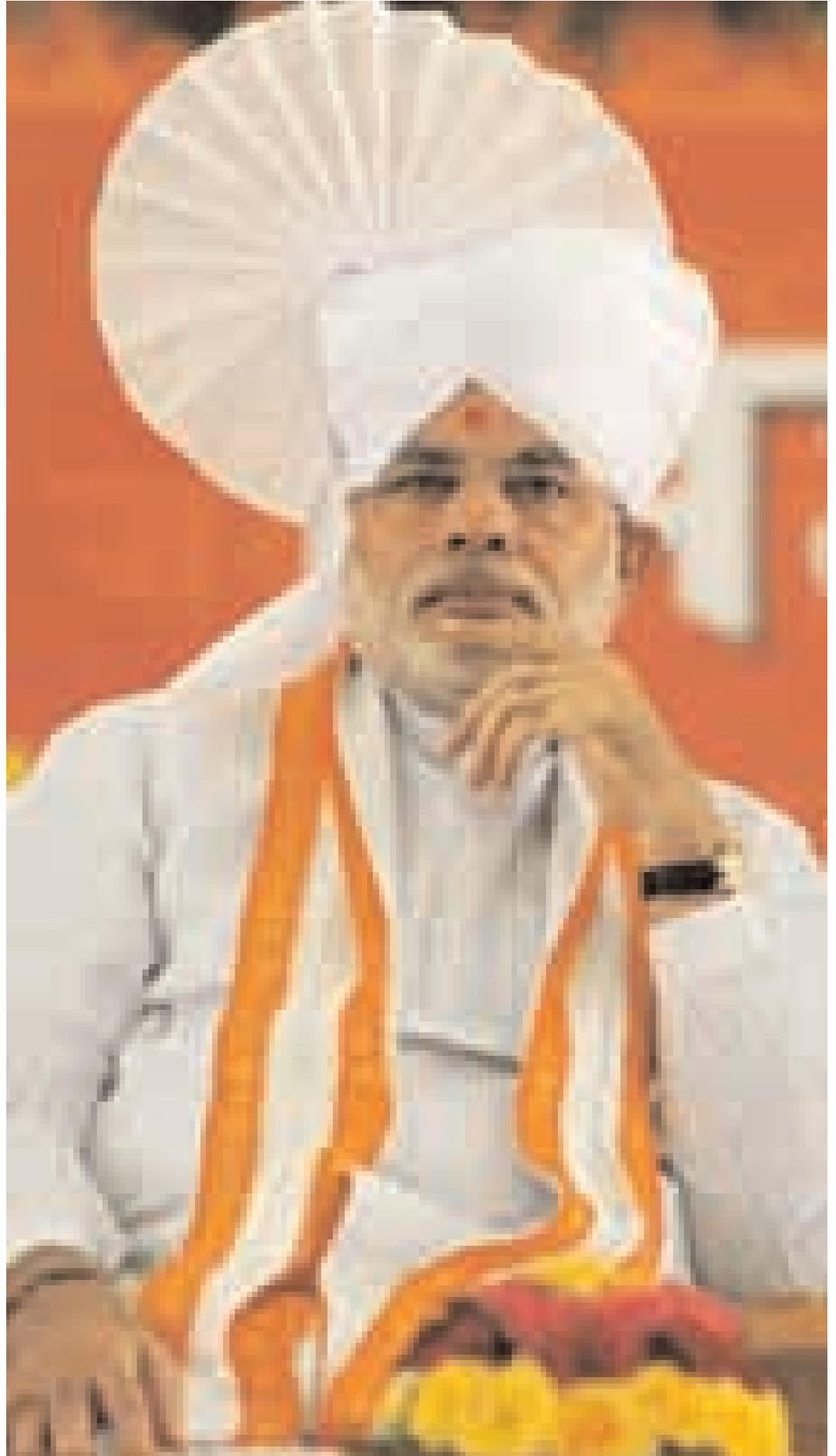
December is a very crucial month for the Chief Minister Narendra Modi, for the State of Gujarat, for the Hindus in India, and for India as the country. The State Assembly elections in Gujarat are scheduled for December 13 and 17 - and the results will be announced on December 20.

In India, Shri Narendra Modi is an embodiment of courage and valor. He is a powerful orator, a consummate communicator and a forthright thinker. He is a fearless fighter, a legend who understands how to capture the collective imagination of the people he wants to lead.

In spite of the mean and mendacious media blitzkrieg launched against him by anti-Hindu Congress Party in collusion with the dangerous combination of anti-national radical Islamists, Leftists and foreign-funded NGOs, Narendra Modi has not only stood strong, but has also made them eat the humble pie.

Gujarat under Narendra Modi, the "Lion of Gujarat", has blossomed in the

Gujarat under Narendra Modi, the "Lion of Gujarat", has blossomed in the last eleven years and has become the growth-engine of India. Modi has completely transformed the state's economic and political landscape. He is punctilious in his thoughts, deeds and actions and runs the state like an efficient CEO.





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Narendra Modi is endowed with a syncretistic vision which enables him to lead Gujarat in a harmonious manner. Under his dynamic leadership, Gujarat is practically leading the country in every segment of economy... the power, petroleum, petrochemicals, ports, steel, minerals, gems, jewelry and auto industry.

When he first took over as the Chief Minister, Gujarat had a power shortage of 2000 MW, but now it is a power-surplus state. Gujarat actually contributes 16% to the country's overall industrial production. Agricultural growth of Gujarat is at 11%; the rest of India it is barely 4%.

In a quantum leap, in April 2012, Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation 600 MW of installed solar power projects, including the Asia's largest solar park with 214 MW generation capacity. With achievements like these, Narendra Modi has established himself as the man with vision, mission and conviction.

His zero tolerance policy towards the

Politically, Narendrabhai got a big boost to his image and stature when in April 2012 the Supreme Court-appointed Special Investigation Team (SIT) cleared him of the charges related to Gujarat riots of 2002. In its report SIT has exposed the nexus between the top State Congress officials, the so-called 'secular' journalists, NGOs and the police. For such legendary courage and conviction, Narendra Modi actually deserves the nation's ovation and admiration, rather than the dishonor and defamation.

terrorism has won him big laurels. Gujarat, which was the home of some of the worst communal riots in inde-

pendent India has seen no communal disturbances in the last ten years.

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Recently, the prestigious "Time magazine" featured Modi on its cover page. Financial Times, another world-class publication, applauded Gujarat's growth under Modi in glowing terms. A September 2011 report drawn up by the US Congressional Research Service (CRS) describes Modi as the "King of Governance." The world-renowned Brookings Institution's Managing Director writes about Modi in March 2012 that India could elect him as its Prime Minister.

Over eighty three percent of India's population or Nine-Hundred-Ninety-million people in the country are Hindu. Yet, shamefully, the country is being



ruled by the minorities, who are barely 18% of the population count. India is the only country in the world where its minorities – principally the Muslims and the Christians – have ganged up together to enact laws that decide how the Hindu majority should behave in their own country! It is truly a matter of great regret and shame that Hindus are taking this injustice and tyranny lying down!

Sinister efforts are underway to selectively appoint the Christians and Muslims in sensitive and powerful positions within the administration. Here are a few glaring examples of it:

Chairperson of the country's ruling political alliance UPA is Sonia Gandhi, a practicing Catholic Christian. Her son Rahul Gandhi, another Catholic Christian, is being groomed to be the next Prime Minister of India. Country's Defense Minister A.K. Antony, the Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai, and Head of the Air Wing of military Anil Kumar Browne, P.J. Kurien - Dy. Chairman Rajya Sabha, P.C. Chacko, newly appointed Congress Spokesperson, P.J. Thomas, 14th Chief Vigilance Commissioner (appointment subsequently quashed) are all Christians.

The country's Foreign Minister

The country's Foreign Minister Salman Khurshid, Minister of State for External Affairs E. Ahamed, the Chief Justice Altmas Kabir, the nation's Vice President and Chairman of Rajya Sabha Hamid Ansari, Chief Election Commissioner S.Y. Qureshi, Attorney General of India, Goolam Essaji Vahanvati, K. Rahman Khan, Minister for Minorities Affairs ad Rashid Alvi, Congress Spokesperson are all Muslims.

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To add an insult to the injury Syed Asif Ibrahim, a Muslim IPS officer has been appointed as Chief of Intelligence Bureau (IB). Many Hindu leaders believe that his appointment could endanger India's internal security.

In this connection, readers should note that in order to pave the way for Asif Ibrahim to be the Chief of IB, at least four of his senior Hindu officers (R.N. Gupta, V. Rajagopal, S. Jayaraman and Yashovardhan Azad) were transferred to insignificant posts.

Closest political advisors of Sonia Gandhi are Margaret Alva, a Christian, Ahmad Patel, a Muslim and Osar Fernandez, a senior Indian National Congress leader, a Christian. The country's Minister of Health and Family Welfare Gulam Nabi Azad is a Muslim.

For all practical purposes, the overall Hindu people and India as the country are presently under a state of siege. Unknown to the common public, that siege has been laid with the help of radical Islamists, jihadists, and Marxists. The chief aim of this insidious conspiracy is to demoralize and denigrate the

Hindus and their organizations... and encourage the centrifugal forces to balkanize India into several mini-Pakistans. Almost all Hindus have already been driven out of Kashmir. Over 30 million Bangladeshi Muslims have infiltrated into Assam, West Bengal and other neighboring states. The states like Assam, Bengal, and Kerala are witnessing a big demographic change. No matter how strongly we deny it, the unfortunate fact still remains intact that the "demographic conquest of any land is the most permanent form of a conquest."

Discrimination against Hindus in India is rampant. Top Hindu temples like Tirupati and Sabrimala are taken away from Hindu hands - through the legislation - and given to 'secular' civil servants for managing them. From the religious offerings of Hindu devotees meant strictly for the Hindu issues, the bureaucrats unfairly dole away Rs. 690 crores a year as the Haj subsidy alone.

There is a complete economic mess and utter chaos in India created by various mega-scams: Coal-gate scam worth Rs. 186,000 crores, 2G scam worth Rs. 176,000 crores, and Commonwealth Games scam worth Rs. 70,000 crores. Massive payoffs from these scams have made it possible for a half-literate Italian-Indian woman like Sonia Gandhi to become the fourth richest politician in the world.

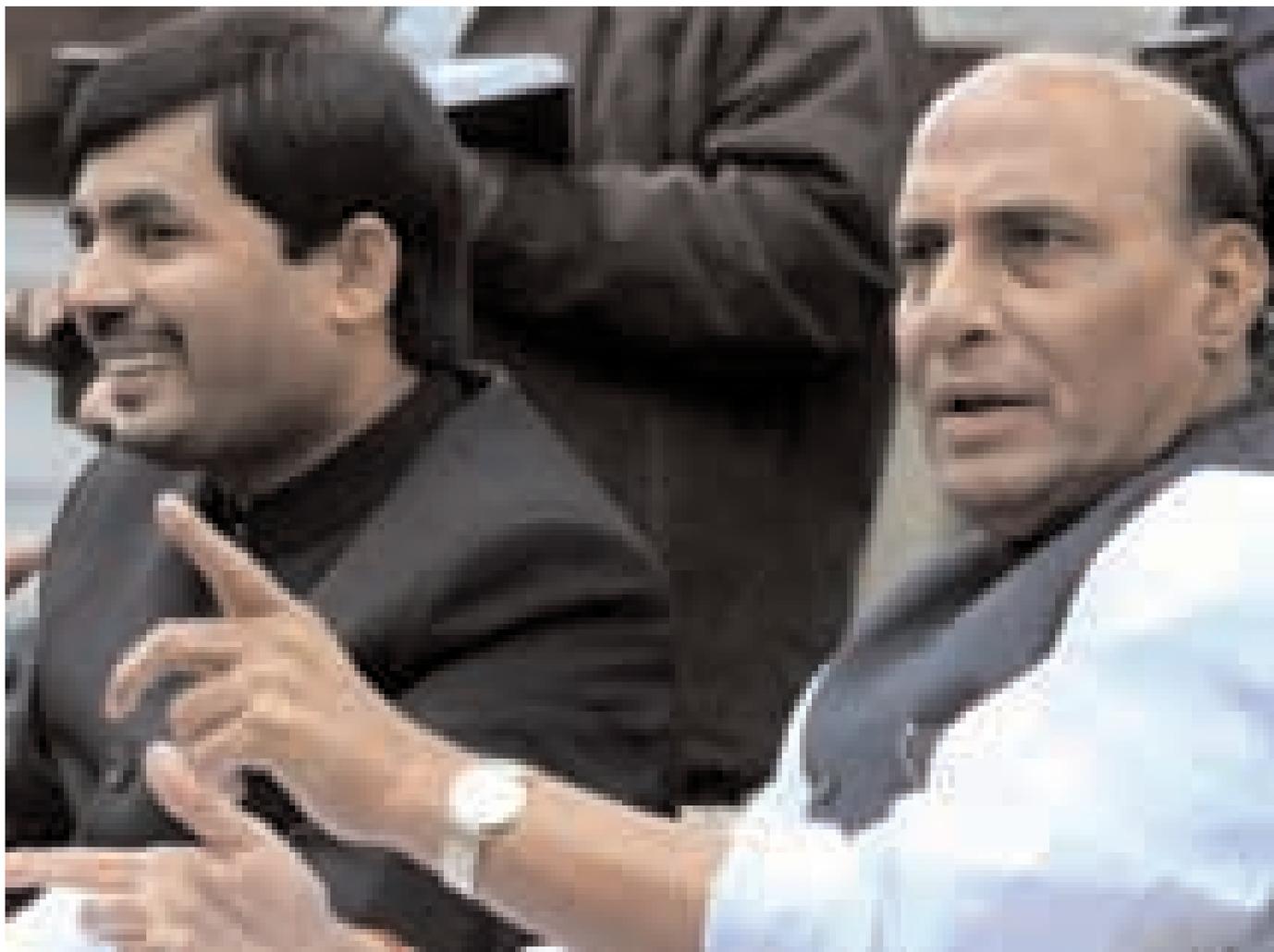
Amidst all this gigantic plunder and loot, there is little hope for our country. The only way out is if the honest and courageous leaders like Narendra Modi manage to get into the driver's seat... and, maneuver the country away from the sure doom and disaster waiting ahead.

If you want to restore the dignity to India, if you wish to put Bharat Mata on the pedestal of glory, if you want the country to be a super-power in real terms... it is incumbent upon all such residents of Gujarat to come out in big numbers on the polling day and vote for Narendra Modi... the only honest, hardworking and charismatic leader of Gujarat.

(Sudhir Srinivasan)



Resurgent **Rajnath Singh** no pushover for Modi



Rajnath is a docile face for hostile Indian politics but make no mistake that he is extremely sharp on macro politics. In UP, Rajnath has lived with stalwarts like Atalji, Dr Joshi, Kalyan Singh and surprisingly, he flourished with passage of time. When it seemed almost certain that the RSS would have its way in installing Nitin Gadkari for a second term, it was also clear that Narendra Modi would be directing the 2014 electoral battle and that he would have his own team at the party central office as part of his campaign committee, Rajnath elevation as party president has a different story to speak.

It was a foregone conclusion that Modi would overshadow Gadkari

because the latter did not win glory for himself in his first term and did not have it in him to launch an aggressive campaign. Gadkari would not be able to stand up to Modi. Therefore, Gadkari would be the president and Modi would be the helmsman.

Modi will hit the first road-block with Rajnath Singh as the party president. He stands, of course, politically taller than Singh because he is a successful CM. Singh was chief minister of UP when the BJP lost the assembly polls in 2002, and he was party president when it lost the Lok Sabha polls in 2009. He is also not considered a political heavyweight in UP.

The difference between an unsuccessful Gadkari and an unsuccessful Singh is this: Singh is a seasoned

politician by virtue of the fact that he comes from the Byzantine political society of UP where the upper castes, the Dalits and the OBCs and the Muslim minority, fight on an equal footing, and where he served as CM for a short period. Gujarat is not only a small state in comparison with UP, it is also less complex.

Singh will turn his insider knowledge of UP into his political capital in dealing with Modi. There is also the inescapable personality factor. Singh is a proud Thakur who will not like to be pushed around.

Despite these differences, it should be possible for the two war-horses, with different experiences, to work together. There is the common factor that the two have close RSS links.



Rajnath takes helm 'at a difficult time'

At a hurriedly organised installation ceremony at the party headquarters, Rajnath Singh who emerged overnight as the alternative to Nitin Gadkari, took over as the new BJP president in the presence of senior party leaders, including LK Advani, senior leaders Sushma Swaraj, Arun Jaitley, Venkaiah Naidu and others at noon on Wednesday. Advani, Singh and Gadkari spoke on the occasion.

Advani recalled the budding days of the BJP and how Atal Behari Vajpayee insisted on being a party with a difference by keeping it an incorruptible organisation. Advani said that there should be zero-tolerance towards corruption, which was ironical even as Gadkari had to opt out because of corruption charges. Gadkari sounded sour and defiant when he blamed the UPA government of trying to tarnish his image by framing cases, and asserted that he would clear his name.

Singh, in his acceptance speech, said that he was taking over at a difficult time and in unhappy circumstances. He was referring to the several state assembly elections that were due this year and the Lok Sabha poll next

Earlier in the morning, the central parliamentary board met and passed a resolution expressing its appreciation for Gadkari during his term as president. The resolution said, "The parliamentary board places on record its sense of deep appreciation for the leadership provided by Shri Nitin Gadkari to the party during his tenure as the president of the BJP."

year on the one hand, and to his last minute elevation because of differences in the party over Gadkari's second term.

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Shri Gadkari's dynamism, good work and open mindedness helped immensely in expanding the support base of the party. Shri Gadkari displayed qualities of an ideal karyakarta and was always available to party workers." Later, returning officer Thanwar

Chand Gehlot declared Rajnath Singh elected as president without contest.

Rajnath Singh elevation means that RSS supreme authority is tested by old core party war horse led Shri Advani and surely RSS being an ideologue for the party will never accept decent. Secondly, the principle political adversary Congress is going through a generational leadership shift hence it offers a window of opportunity for the BJP to strike and win elections. The UPA government is battling almost a decade of anti incumbency that BJP was planning to leverage an advantage but the contradictions between RSS and BJP mainstream may damage this opportunity to rest power from Congress yet again.

**Prakhar Mishra reports from
New Delhi**

'We have sufficient pool of young leaders'

(Prakhar Misra, Political Editor of Opinion Express in conversation with newly elected President of BJP in New Delhi on the eve of republic day)

Q What is Rajnath Singh's biggest challenge? Congress or inner fight??

A To expose Congress mis rule that led to internal security threat, corruption, inflation & destruction of agri economy of the country.

Q You are pitted against next generation leadership of Congress as Rahul Gandhi has just taken over the party command, how BJP will reach out to young voters of India specially when we have 65 % population under 40 years ?

A We have sufficient pool of young leaders, best trained and intellectual disposition.

Q What is BJP economic policy?? You are a right wing party yet opposing market reforms And FDI??

A BJP economic policy is neither right or left wing rather it is focused on national interest.

Q For Rajnath Singh surely UP is the single most challenge to stamp your authority over your organisation, government (if elected in 2014), share your plan and vision to win caste ridden UP state from the clutches of OBC led SP and SC led BSP party machine?

A Kalyan Singh entry in the party will bring tremendous change in the electorate mathematics of the UP political landscape. People are tired of Mayawati & Mulayam Singh brand of politics, all are looking towards BJP to offer development oriented politics.

Q Your views on saffron terror as described by Home Minister?

A Congress is desperately looking to polarise minority votes hence Home Minister has given this statement. BJP will strongly oppose it in the Parliament & street to expose Congress and irresponsible Home Minister. Saffron Terror is a myth, created by Congress for political survival.

Q Personally, you would like to project an individual as prime minister candidate (early BJP projected Atalji to win elections)? If yes, Narendra Modi can be the dark horse?

A At an appropriate time, we will surely present the most acceptable face.



We are no longer prepared to put up with **ineffective leaders**



● **Tavleen Singh**

The day after she died in that Singapore hospital, Sonia Gandhi and the Prime Minister went to receive her body at the airport making sure that 'the people' were kept away. They went in the early hours of a cold, dark and foggy Delhi morning and they made sure that the girl's body was cremated before the thousands who had gathered every day at India Gate for nearly two weeks to pray for her discovered that she had died. The secretive, surreptitious manner in which India's two most important political leaders behaved after an incident that caused national shame and horror showed their inability to understand the importance of leadership. It needs to be added here that the man who many believe will be India's prime minister in 2014 did not show his face even once after the girl died.

So here are some questions. What kind of political leaders are afraid of the people? Why did the country's biggest

When the young medical student whose intestines were pulled out with an iron rod by her rapists was still struggling to live in Safdarjung Hospital, and thousands gathered at India Gate and Vijay Chowk to pray for her I waited every day for young political leaders to join the protesters.

leaders not make any effort to talk to the protesters who gathered in streets that are five minutes from their homes? Why did the Chief Minister of Delhi only make an effort to meet protesters after they had been attacked by her policemen with water cannons and tear gas shells? She was booed when she finally showed up but what more did she expect? The political failure to respond empathetically to public outrage over

the ghastly gang rape in a Delhi bus is not something that can be pinned on the Congress alone. It was a failure of the entire political class.

When the young medical student whose intestines were pulled out with an iron rod by her rapists was still struggling to live in Safdarjung Hospital, and thousands gathered at India Gate and Vijay Chowk to pray for her I waited every day for young political leaders to join the protesters. The Lok Sabha is awash with the daughters, sisters and wives of powerful political leaders and I thought at least one or two would show up to join the protests. The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha is a woman who has demanded the death penalty for rapists so I thought she would come for political reasons if not out of real pain. There are influential women Chief Ministers who have also made a huge noise about harsher sentences for rapists. They were in Delhi for the National Development Council meeting while the protests were still going on, and it would have helped them politically to make an appearance but they did not come either. Why?



Ask yourself these questions and the only answer that will come to you is that our political leaders are so removed from the people that they do not understand their own political interests any more. As someone who has spent more than three decades wandering about India covering elections and other political events I have noticed this disconnect grow and spread only since hereditary democracy became the norm for most political parties. In the old days when I covered election campaigns, it was normal to see important candidates travelling about on foot or in humble transport. I have personally seen two former Prime Ministers, VP Singh and Atal Bihari Vajpayee, campaign door to door in the 1980s but ever since political heirs began to populate the benches of the Lok Sabha this practice has stopped.

Political princes and princesses are a new breed of politician. They are unused to the dirt roads and grime of rural India so they travel in expensive air-conditioned SUVs wherever they go and this mode of transport is usually enough to distance them from the people. But, if they go on to become Ministers, Chief Ministers or important leaders in their own right, then the distance is compounded by 'security' concerns. Then they take to descending upon villages in helicopters that land in dusty fields where cavalcades of ambassador cars filled with commandos await their arrival. It is in these cav-

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alcades that they travel to election meetings or political events. Then as soon as the meeting ends they vanish into the skies. Their contact with 'the people' is limited to meeting rural officials. It is an unhealthy and ugly transition that has occurred in Indian political life and it manifests itself more and more these days because in the cities people are not ready to put up with absent political leaders anymore.

In a crisis they want to see their leaders do what they elected them to do - lead. Like the girl who was raped and killed they are filled with modern ideas. The girl thought, like modern city girls do, that it was safe to go and see a late evening show in a cinema and then take a bus home. And, those who came to protest against her gang rape think like modern young Indians should that

they have a right to demand law and order from their leaders and that they have a right to demand answers from them when they fail to provide it. The protesters who gathered in the streets of our cities to mourn the girl talked openly to television reporters about the need for the criminal justice system to improve. They expressed resentment against the huge deployment of policemen for VIP security when ordinary citizens could not be guaranteed safety.

These are modern ideas expressed by modern Indians who, unlike their rural brethren, are no longer prepared to put up with ineffective leaders or bad governance. The problem is that our political leaders seem unable to understand this. So the majority of those who spoke up for the girl did so from the safety of television studios. They talked in angry voices about the need for Special Sessions of Parliament to discuss a new rape law and for harsher punishments for rapists. In doing this they showed how very removed they are from reality. It is not new laws that are needed or harsher punishments. What we need is a Special Session of Parliament to discuss how a criminal justice system that is completely broken can be fixed before the whole structure comes crumbling down. What is the point of new laws when India has less than half the number of policemen for 100,000 people than the international average of 250? What is the point of new laws when a rape case can take decades to be decided in our courts?

A new **global role** awaits India

● Ashley J. Tellis



A stable India should seek to shape the world, rather than respond to situations.

India has come of age, and holds its own in negotiations. —
Shanker Chakravarty

On the eve of India's founding, no one could have imagined how successfully it would come to navigate the international system. At that time, there were legions of sceptics who believed that the half-life of this new country would be measured in years, perhaps decades at most.

The question of when India would split apart was one of the staples of public discussion going back to Churchill's celebrated remark, "India is a geographical term. It is no more a united nation than the Equator."

Today, however, India's unity is taken for granted. In one of the greatest feats of modern history, India has built a cohesive nation despite incredible poverty and diversity. India has done just as well in regard to its territorial integrity. India as a unified territorial entity has survived despite being located in an extremely contested and unsettled regional environment. And, India has managed, despite great material weakness, to protect its political autonomy.

INDIA HOLDS ITS OWN

No one who has had the pleasure of negotiating with Indian colleagues on the other side of the table will conclude that this is a country that is incapable of protecting its interests. When I was working on the civil nuclear negotia-

Today, however, India's unity is taken for granted. In one of the greatest feats of modern history, India has built a cohesive nation despite incredible poverty and diversity. India has done just as well in regard to its territorial integrity.





tions, my team was often accused of being unable to protect American interests, and of course there were a few Indians who made the same complaints about their team. But there were no Americans who walked away from that conversation believing that India is incapable of holding its own!

The reason why many outsiders invariably end up complaining about India being reactive is precisely because Indians have held on to the view – with good reason – that success in navigating the world derives principally from success in political, economic, and social management at home. This has characterised the way New Delhi has thought about its relationship to the world.

The first constant is an abiding obsession with economic growth. Whereas India began managing economic growth primarily through autarky and dirigisme, today it is shifting to a vision that has greater room for globalisation and a greater acceptance of market forces.

It is still an incomplete transition, but the fact that it is underway offers the greatest opportunities for developing the US-India relationship, not simply at the level of strategy or diplomacy, but where it matters most, in people's

The first constant is an abiding obsession with economic growth. Whereas India began managing economic growth primarily through autarky and dirigisme, today it is shifting to a vision that has greater room for globalisation and a greater acceptance of market forces.

cheque books and their pockets.

CAPACITY-BUILDING

Second, India has focused on building state capacity and empowering its citizenry from the very beginning. It is far from completing this task successfully, and yet this is one area where India's success will be determined entirely by its internal actions. Outsiders – including well-meaning outsiders like those in the US – can help, but only on the margins.

The choices that India makes with

respect to its own institutions and how it invests in its people will make the real difference to India's strategy. There are big debates now, centred around the balance between the state and the market in achieving India's goals. The US can provide ideas from the sidelines, but this is an argument that Indians will have to work through themselves.

The third and last component of India's grand strategy has been a desire to enhance its national security while minimising security competition. India settled for such a conservative strategy because it has always been aware of its own weakness. Weaknesses within and the unsettled environment without have pushed Indian policy makers to become defensive positionalists, focused not necessarily on improving India's position in the world, but rather on preventing its position from deteriorating further. At its core, Indian policy therefore has always focused on avoiding the foreclosure of options.

This approach sometimes rattles an anxious US, which would like to see a far more energetic India that acts as a shaper of its environment rather than as a country that simply protects its equities. The US government must remember, however, that India's defen-



sive positionalism is intimately linked to its own stage of development.

The day that India overcomes the internal challenges will be the day that India gets into the shaping business as opposed to simply the adjustment business.

India today finds itself between the times. It has accomplished the core task of what states are supposed to do: to protect political integrity in the broadest sense. Such success came against great odds, but India's tasks are now becoming far more complicated because popular expectations within are rising just when new great powers – and new threats – are becoming manifest in its extended neighborhood.

As India succeeds, people – including many in the US – have great expectations of it. Therefore, how India understands itself, its role, and its contributions will concern not only Indians, but everyone involved in the US-India partnership.

Americans need to appreciate that no matter what labels India uses, its size, its history, and its aspirations will

The fact that India seeks to plot its own course, however, is not necessarily a threat to American interests. In fact, Washington ought to ask itself not what India can do for the United States, but what India will become: Will India be strong, even if independent, or will it be weak?

always ensure that New Delhi marches to the beat of its own drum. No matter what its circumstances, India will not become the kind of treaty ally that some Americans would like to see.

The fact that India seeks to plot its own course, however, is not necessarily a threat to American interests. In fact, Washington ought to ask itself not what India can do for the United States, but what India will become: Will India be strong, even if independent, or will it be

weak?

An India that is strong is fundamentally in American interests, a perspective well-recognized when I served in the George W. Bush administration. We did not engage in nuclear cooperation with India on the expectation that there would be a quid-pro-quo. We did not push the transformation of US-Indian relations merely out of expectations that India would help us to realise narrow interests.

Rather, if India could find the sources of its own strength, its success both as a democracy and as a rising power would contribute towards creating a balance of power in Asia that is ultimately favourable both to US and Indian interests.

(The author is a Senior Associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. He is a member of CASI's International Advisory Board.)

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Challenges of policing in India



● Prakash Singh

I had been watching the News where you have made statements that the Policing has to be strong. This is the standard statement being made by you all in Media as and when any incident occurs. I had been communicating with you all about the sad state of affairs while managing police. The Chief Minister of Delhi claims that she had been demanding for almost 10 years that the Police should be under control of Delhi Govt.

I fail to understand why the successive Governments have failed to address the core issue that ails Policing in India. Despite after 65 years of independence, our Governments continue to be entertain British Mind Set that Policemen should be treated as dirt, low paid so that they would engage in Corrupt practices and then can be used

The fact remains that the police is used, abused on 24 x 7 basis, ill equipped, untrained and under paid leading to frustration. This also fact, if a Cop leads honest life annually he/she suffers a loss of Rs.5,500/-. The Tughlaki order passed by the present Commissioner Police that SHO shall be present in Police Station round the clock is classic example of British mindset.

for managing Political rivals.

I had conducted study on Police working that was shared with you all almost three years ago and also last year the trailing mail was sent by me but none of you even bothered to acknowledge the receipt because you all are provided with Sarkari car and Sarkari Security all around. You all are escorted by Cops in and around mar-

kets, railways stations, airports and last but not the least on the City Roads. Therefore, you all never thought to respond to the emails leave alone acting on the suggestions. You all are blaming Police and Public. For you all the members of public are guinea pigs who assume importance only before Election.

The fact remains that the police is



used, abused on 24 x 7 basis, ill equipped, untrained and under paid leading to frustration. This also fact, if a Cop leads honest life annually he/she suffers a loss of Rs.5,500/-. The Tughlaki order passed by the present Commissioner Police that SHO shall be present in Police Station round the clock is classic example of British mind-set.

It is also matter of fact that large chunk of Police force is deployed on safety of the Politicians who have criminal track record. The Question arises why Criminal Politician should get protection at the cost of Common Citizens and Law & Order.

The statement of Delhi CM that she is fighting for control over Delhi Police

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for last 10 years is a cruel joke because both in Delhi and at Central Govt., the Congress is in driving seat.

Therefore, there is an urgent need to look into the matters that ail Policing in India as per attached Article. As evidence of my efforts to solicit your attention I am also forwarding the trailing mail that was sent by me on Fri, Nov 28, 2008 at 8:10 AM, that never saw the light of the day.

It is the high time that you should start taking the citizens seriously and stop using Police like Britishers.

Why Policing fails in India?

Policing is a specialized job and requires deep concentration, planning and strategy. Therefore, in order to have effective policing, it is utmost important that professionals be inducted in the Police Force.



All along we have seen that the Police Officers are shifted from Local Policing to Traffic Police and from Traffic Police to Crime Branch and from Crime Branch to Special Cell.

Without meaning any disrespect to the serving police officers from the rank of Sub Inspector onwards we had sought for educational qualifications of the officers posted in the Traffic Police Delhi. Apart from seeking details of professional qualification we had also sought for details of professional Qualification of the officers deployed with Traffic Police Delhi under Right to Information Act 2005. A scanned copy of the reply is attached with this mail.

On perusal of the details it was observed that the Educational Qualification ranges from Matriculation to normal Graduates. A few are found to be holding degree in B.Sc or M.Sc. or Post Graduate. It is also observed that a simple Arts Graduate is handling legal

Unless immediate steps are taken in this regard both the Civilians and Police officers would continue to be soft targets as the civilian does not have capacity to protect himself and the Police Officers cannot perform after wearing Bullet Proof Jacket weighing 35 Kgs. thus would continue to die like Inspector Sharma or Hemant Karkare and his colleagues in Mumbai

Cell of Traffic Police in Delhi. Now the question arises when an Arts Graduate is faced with the Planners who are

Engineers while planning the City Roads or the Lawyers in the Courts who practice law day in and day out, a simple Graduate cannot compete with the competence levels of the those Engineers or Lawyers. Therefore, the Police are bound to fail.

Now the question arises when the same officer is transferred to other branches of Policing, again the situation is the same. Once again by virtue of lack of professional qualification, his performance is retarded. Such Officer cannot compete with his Counterparts working in other departments.

During British regime the Police was paid low salaries with intent that they can be used in any manner the way they wanted at that time. The Professional Qualification at that time was never the criteria. Unfortunately post independence once again we find that the Police Constabulary or junior officers continue to be low paid jobs with almost 24 x 7 duty hours for days together without



In case professionals are inducted in the Police Force in India as happens in other Countries, the cop would not cook food in the house of senior cops or would not take the family of the Senior Officers for outing in Official cars. Similarly such cop would also not succumb to the pressures exerted by the Politicians.

any leave. Once they do not have time to relax where is the time to train them?. Whatever they learn is hit and trial method even during so called training programs. The constabulary being the first face of the police that faces common citizens is suffering not only from stress and fatigue but is also suffering from the financial losses but also is being ill-treated both by the Legislature as well as the Executive.

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Politicians.

I had been watching on Electronic Media very often after every incident, the way it has happened in Mumbai today that rocks the nation both Politicians and Bureaucrats allege Intelligence failure or failure of Policing in India. But the moot question that why no steps have been taken to professionalize and modernize the police force in India.

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Inspector Sharma or Hemant Karkare and his colleagues in Mumbai

By this mail, I seeking your immediate attention and intervention in the matter because as a Nation we cannot afford to permit such glaring mistakes.

Compulsion to be Corrupt-Police

All of us had been hearing a lot about corruption in Police and in fact it is a matter of fact. A lot has been said about Police Reforms but the shocking part is that the Police Constabulary being the first face of Police that faces the general public and the key of cog wheel of investigation has been ignored even by fifth pay commission.

We have collected information under Right to Information Act, 2005 from Delhi Police, Punjab Police, Haryana Police and Uttar Pradesh Police. Since I have more information available with me about Delhi Police so I thought it fit to comment on Delhi Police only. It has been observed that each constable living in far flung area, with small family having two school going children, without any savings to his account, shall have either to beg or

borrow an amount of Rs. 5,000-00 to Rs. 6,000-00 each month for below average standard of living.

During British regime the police was always under paid with a specific agenda that once underpaid they would indulge in corruption and under the threat of removal the Britishers would force them to act as per their own whims and fancies against the Indian freedom fighters and they succeeded.

In view of the information provided to us it is felt that even the mind set of present rulers has not changed.

Deficit per month Rs.755.00

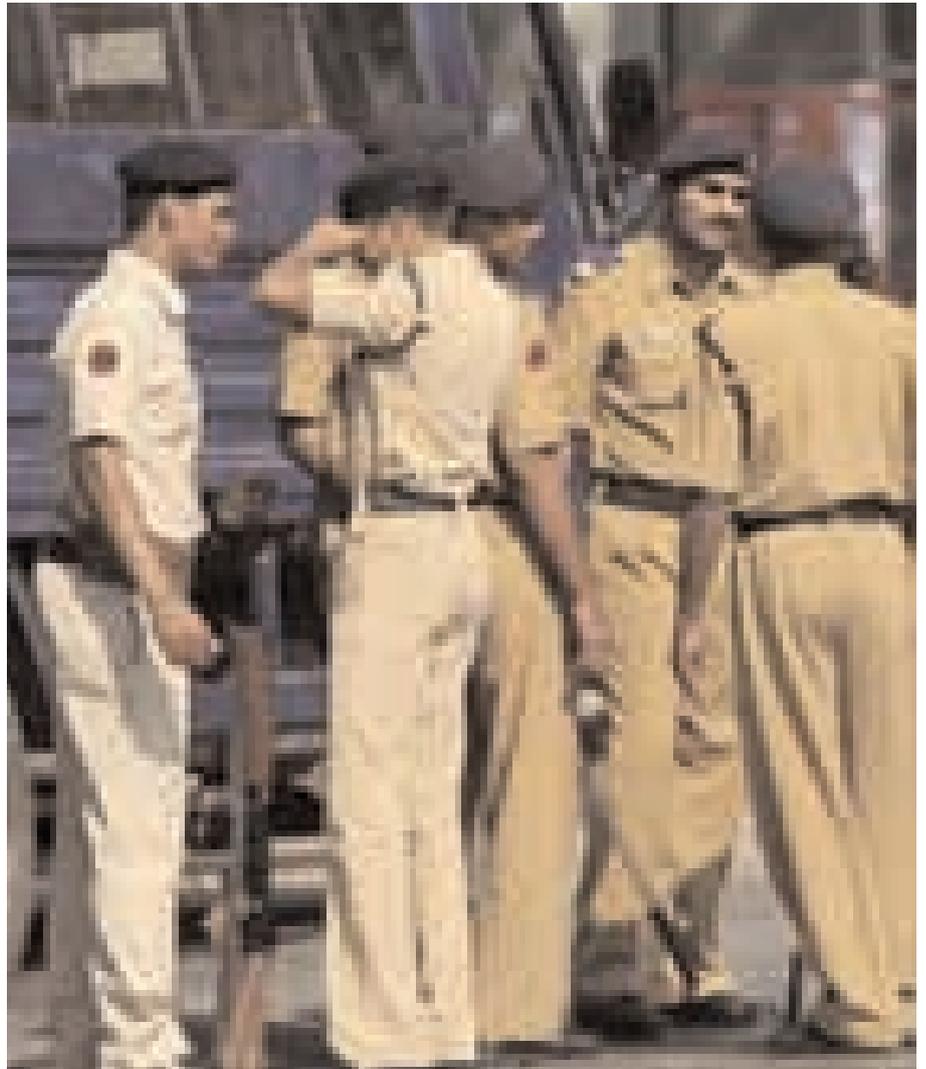
- 1. Excess of Expense on account of washing over allowance: Rs. -33.33**
- 2. Excess of Conveyance: Rs. -1,900.00**
- 3. Motorcycle Maintenance: Rs. -300.00**
- 4. Mobile Phone Expenses: Rs. -500.00**
- 5. Share of Expenses on account of unclaimed Dead Body: Rs -2,000.00**
- 6. Total Deficit per month: Rs. 5,488.33**

In case the constable opts for insurance policy or any other saving scheme and gives pocket money to school going children or indulges in a luxury of giving any simple gift to his wife once in a blue moon the deficit would go up by another Rs. 2,500.00 per month. This amount is exclusive of the money spent by the Cop on himself during duty hours or commuting from Home to place of Duty & back.

Therefore the total deficit would go up to Rs. 7,988.33 per month. Now to meet this need of bare minimum amount he is bound to indulge in borrowing as he cannot beg thus to repay indulge in corruption.

Thus indulging in corruption is bound to reflect on his working efficiency, law enforcement and investigations. The issues like Nithari or Prof Sabharwal, Jessica Lal or Priyadarshini Mattoo shall continue to crop up very often. The BMW's shall continue to mow down the innocent people and get converted into trucks over night.

The Blue Lines would continue to recklessly kill the road users. The overloaded trucks would continue to damage the roads, cause pollution what ever we may say about global warming leading to accidents, unquantifiable amount of damage to life and property and loss to the State Exchequer. Not only this they would also continue to be arrogant defiant,



Thus indulging in corruption is bound to reflect on his working efficiency, law enforcement and investigations. The issues like Nithari or Prof Sabharwal, Jessica Lal or Priyadarshini Mattoo shall continue to crop up very often. The BMW's shall continue to mow down the innocent people and get converted into trucks over night.

ruthless and reckless in their day to day life. They would continue to disrespect and even kill their colleagues and seniors out of sheer frustration.

Therefore, unless we address this root cause of corruption and pay reasonable salaries no reforms are going to work and improve the system. Law enforcement and poor and shoddy investigations would continue to be the first causality.

Therefore, in fitness of things it is utmost important that the issue is at least now dealt with properly and it is ensured that the lower constabulary is paid reasonable salary so that tomorrow if they do not perform they can be punished.

In addition to the reasonable

Salary, there is a need to put in place a system to ensure that no Cop has to bear the expense of giving decent burial or performing last rites of unclaimed bodies.

I have not considered the expenses the cops end up spending on purchase of stationary for the police station, other expenses while treating the visiting officials. I have visited web site of Delhi Police. Though under Right to Information a full disclosure about the Budget under different heads is to be made but it is not available. Who cares in Government and general Public lacks voice. Babus please come out of your deep slumber and shed British mindset before it is too late.

(The writer is retd IPS officer)

Bridging gap between India & Indians - **Kapil Dudakia**

(Twitter: @kdudakia)

Kapil Dudakia was born in a fantastic part of the world - Mombasa, Kenya. During 1968 difficulties arose in East Africa that led to many Asians having to flee the country. His parents being British Citizens came to the UK in the exodus that followed and the children (three brothers and one sister) came with them to face the challenges of this new country. In fact as it turns out, on the front page of the 'National Daily' a leading newspaper of the time in Kenya there was a photograph of a family with bewildered young children with the story line - 'what will be the future of these children?' The photograph was of none other than Kapil and his family and in this article you will see what happened to this young man.

Kapil attended primary and secondary education in Bolton, Lancashire and thereafter went to Cardiff University (part of the Russell Group of premier universities in the UK) to study BSc Hons in Electrical and Electronic Engineering.

Having secured his first degree he went on to complete a PGCE and later became a school teacher. His teaching career was exceptionally successful and at the young age of only 31 years, he was appointed as a schools inspector. In 1993 he became an OFSTED inspector (renowned elite group of inspectors in the UK appointed by HM the Queen) for both primary and secondary education.

Kapil is a man who likes challenges and soon inspection and being an inspector had become monotonous. It



Photo with David Cameron Prime Minister of Britain, 'Kapil attending a special Diwali function at 10 Downing Street by invitation of the Prime Minister'

Kapil is a man who likes challenges and soon inspection and being an inspector had become monotonous. It was at this time he made a remarkable decision - to retire from that profession and embark on a new challenge. He elected to become a consultant advising businesses both in the UK as well as in India on JV's, market penetration, strategic development and so on.

was at this time he made a remarkable decision - to retire from that profession and embark on a new challenge. He elected to become a consultant advising businesses both in the UK as well as in India on JV's, market penetration, strategic development and so on.

In the UK Kapil is much better

known for his social service both within the Hindu (Indian) community as well as within society generally. In the past his list of achievements include: Vice President and Trustee of Milton Keynes Hindu Association, Independent Member on the Milton Keynes Standards Board, founding member and Chair of the Milton Keynes Council of Faiths, member of the Local Strategic Partnership, member of the Thames Valley Police Independent Advisory Group and member of the Equality Council. With such expertise his time was in great demand by a host of government and voluntary organisations. He became a trustee to the Fremantle Trust (care provider with t/o of £35m). He was also one of the founding members (and their first Head of Public and

As you can see, Kapil and his family might have been outside of India for generations, yet it is clear that his heart is that of an Indian. They say you can take a Gujarati out of Gujarat, but never Gujarat out of a Gujarati. People like Kapil lead the way on the international arena. Their work and dedication not only promotes the country of their residence, but it also gives great value to the country of their origin, their faith and their cultural heritage.

Media Relations) of the Hindu Forum of Britain (a national organisation representing in excess of 400 Hindu organisations in the UK). Kapil has, by his very experience, become an advisor to many national and regional organisations in the UK. In fact recently when the RSPCA killed a cow on the grounds of a Temple (ISKCON Temple in Watford - Bhakti Vedanta Manor) he led a task force to get justice from both the RSPCA (who made a public apology) and also specific guidance from the British Government on Animal Welfare Law.

As you can see, Kapil and his family might have been outside of India for generations, yet it is clear that his heart is that of an Indian. They say you can take a Gujarati out of Gujarat, but never Gujarat out of a Gujarati. People like Kapil lead the way on the international arena. Their work and dedication not only promotes the country of their residence, but it also gives great value to the country of their origin, their faith and their cultural heritage.

Kapil likes to work in the background, but obviously with such a high profile that is not always possible. His wealth of experience of people, society, politics and governance meant that he is well placed to make comment and observations on most things in life. No doubt it must have been this talent that was spotted by C B Patel (owner of the leading ethnic newspaper in the UK - Asian Voice) who gave him his own column. Typical of a Gujarati his column is

Q&A

I caught up with Kapil in his recent visit to India and asked him a few questions:

OE: What brings you to India this time Kapil?

KD: I am involved with a major project to launch and promote an Indian made 'Tablet' (from Pantel products) with partners such as BSNL, Orange Telecom, Mauritius Telecom, Kanha Tech and SaharaNext. The consortia plans to enter the African sub-continent utilising the 'Penta Tablet' as a vehicle to promote value added services directly to the consumers.

OE: What type of services will this platform be offering?

KD: We are concentrating on eHealth, eEducation and eGovernance. Already some major companies with leading edge products are lining up to become partners in this massive initiative. We can work with private companies, with telecom operators and of course with local and national Governments. On my initiative, world renowned Oxford University has consented in principle to disseminate skill development courses in Asia and Africa riding on vast telecom networks by leveraging cheap Penta tablets hence reaching out the entire population at large.

OE: They tell me that when companies come to you needing to secure orders or break into certain markets - that you have the ability to assist them with great success, can you tell me a bit more about this side of your work?

KD: Confidentiality means that I cannot of course share any specifics. However when a client approaches me with a proposi-

tion I am able to ascertain if I (and our network of partners around the world) are able to assist or not. If the answer is affirmative that means we would be able to advise and structure their proposition such that what might have taken them years to achieve can be shortened to months.

OE: How do you see developments in India?

KD: A rather tricky question. However, India with all its faults and built in difficulties still has the capacity to rise to the challenge of becoming one of the key world power houses in the coming decade. In my view states such as Gujarat have shown a way forward and if this can be replicated at the national level, can you imagine the difference it could potentially make to the lives of millions of Indians? The fate of India rests with good education, good governance, good health care and excellent infrastructure - on all of these it still has much to do.

OE: What are your plans for 2013?

KD: We have established various partnerships with leading edge technology companies and will shortly be launching an ePlatform that will take VAS offers to the masses at an affordable price. In 2013 we aim to attract high quality service providers to come onto our ePlatform, take this not just to India, but via Mauritius to some 21 countries in Africa and even beyond. It's going to be challenging, interesting but with great scope to work with so many wonderful people around the world.

By Prashant Tewari

called, 'Kapil's Khichadi' and over the past several years it has tackled, head on, some of the most controversial issues arising out of society and poli-

tics. He has a canny sixth sense and if politicians had been wise to this, they would have already adopted him as their personal adviser.

Pantel Technologies: Journey to a glorious success

Pantel Technologies, a young Information Communication and Technology devices company based out of Noida, has made a mark in Global Tablet Industry. Within few months of its investiture Pantel Technologies with its range of tablets, marketed under the name of Penta T-Pads had earned the credibility and status of one of the most affordable tablet pc maker of the country.

A sleek yet powerful internet tablet pc holds the ability to revolutionize the way things work. From education, healthcare, governance, social welfare, disaster management, etc, every sector

would eventually transform for its better, promised Pantel Technologies a year ago, and the journey started.

According to Pantel Technologies, an internet tablet PC has the ability to accelerate learning. Through digitized content, learning can be made available from anywhere, anytime and anyplace. With the help of technology and real-time learning collaborations, a tablet pc can aid in custom-made education to masses. The only hindrance that education sector is facing today is cost and connectivity. Cost to procure a tablet pc and enormous task of generating digital content, to switch thousands of courses and materials to digi-

tal content. And connectivity issues, to be able to connect to masses.

Pantel Technologies is focused on the education sector and firmly believes that the new age Digital technologies will go a long way in fulfilling the Government mission of 'Quality Education for all'. Innovatively designed and uniquely priced Tablet PC(s) with bundled wireless connectivity solutions and appropriate education content - will contribute in bridging the 'digital divide'.

And hence, Pantel Technologies offers a unique feature of "digital content" on its tablet PC range, Penta T-Pad. Pantel Technologies has tied up with various known and well estab-

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lished digital content vendors, such as, iProf, Elearner. iProf India and Myelearner are one of India's largest providers for tablet-based digital learning solutions. They impart comprehensive study solutions to students aspiring to excel in entrance exams like IIT-JEE, AIEEE, PMT, AIPMT Medical, et al, besides providing rich digital content for classes KG to XII. These are online platforms to facilitate a 24X7 student-teacher connect. This collaboration has helped bring high quality digital content within the reach of masses across the country using Tablet PC as the delivery medium.

Students today are faced with the challenge of lack of accessibility to educational information and guidance due to their weak financial background. This collaboration has made learning comprehensive, simpler and interactive; and will facilitate the student aspirants to get the best of faculty at their doorstep. Digilibrary from iPROF provides a platform of educational materials such as audio-video lectures, 3D animations, evaluative practice questions for competitive national examinations, 24X7 live teacher support to students using various connection modes like phone call, chat, question dropbox,

Students today are faced with the challenge of lack of accessibility to educational information and guidance due to their weak financial background. This collaboration has made learning comprehensive, simpler and interactive; and will facilitate the student aspirants to get the best of faculty at their doorstep.

et al. Complete e-test, chapter specific e-test, complete test series, e-lectures along with lucid and detailed solutions are the tools through which an aspirant can evaluate his/her own performance and is extensively provided by Myelearner.com. The content is exclusively prepared by the best mentors in the industry.

Further to link up and make it more affordable for the students in Rural India, where reaching school is a big

problem, for them an aid like virtual classroom or digital classroom through Penta T-Pad has been made possible through Pantel Technologies alliance with Indian Maharatna company BSNL.

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, BSNL is oldest and largest communication service provider of India. This Indian state-owned telecommunication company is the largest provider of fixed telephony and fourth largest mobile telephony provider in India. It also has a strong hold as a broadband services provider. With an approx. a billion customer base throughout India, it has been honored as a "maharatna" company of India. And an alliance with a brand of such stature and magnanimity is all that is required to connect to masses. But due to the same reasons, magnanimous structure, it has never been easy for a private player to join hands with BSNL, but Pantel Technologies did it, and was the first one to have a reverse bundling alliance with BSNL.

On the occasion of 'reading week' being celebrated in Thiruvananthapuram, Pantel Technologies with an association with BSNL announced a special offer for students from rural areas. The tablet



priced at Rs 7500 for the normal customer in the market was distributed at a subsidized rate of mere Rs 3000, to offer an equal opportunity to the rural students. For a technically power packed and yet affordable tablet, offer also included a broadband internet connection which was free for the first month. The subsidy scheme will be open for a year. Another very attractive scheme for students included, pre-loaded syllabus of higher and senior secondary classes in video and graphic format, which would facilitate the students to study anytime anywhere. Thanks to the Penta T-Pads, it will no longer be necessary to go to schools for education. Students can even take a series of tests based on the syllabus for self evaluation. And in times to come, Pantel Technologies plans to come with the ability which would let sharing and review of handwritten notes possible; things like automatic grading, video tutorials would be available on the tablet pc. Pantel Technologies is also keen on network independent applications, where users can download assignments for days, or weeks at a time and need not be online always.

Other generous initiatives of Pantel

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Technologies include distribution of 2G calling device, WS703C to meritorious students of the SSLC-2012 examinations in Thrissur, Kerala. Mr. Kapil Sibal, Hon'ble Min. of HRD, Telecom and IT, Govt. of India distributed the newly launched Penta T-Pad WS703C tablet PC in the parliamentary constituency of Hon'ble MP PC Chacko. The recipients

of the Penta T-Pad tablet PC were 674 meritorious students of the SSLC-2012 examinations in Thrissur, Kerala. Also, gracing the occasion were Mr. P. K. Abdu Rabb, Min. of Education, Kerala Govt., Mr. R K Upadhyay, CMD, BSNL and Mr Vijender Singh, MD, Pantel Technologies Pvt. Ltd. The Penta T-Pad WS703C tablet PC is India's first Voice calling tablet with 3D enabled capacitive multi-touch screen.

Moving to Pantel Technologies International Endeavours, Pantel Technologies has its own design house in Honk Kong. Penta T?Pad range of Tablet PC(s), house a competitive "System?on?a-Chip" architecture, with outstanding performance, reliability and sustainability. The architecture designed by in-house technicians in Honk Kong supports an "all--?port" design and has an in?built Graphics GPU-the Mali 400-which delivers real?life graphics on the device. The multiple I/O interfaces -in the form of audio?out, microphone, host USB and mini-USB ports allows for multiple device connectivity, contributing to the versatility of the device. In summary, a rich user experience.

As Penta T-Pad(s) are selling widely



Pantel Technologies in China has an enviable infrastructure equipped with state of art machinery and tools to build world-class Tablet PC(s) at an affordable price. The facility has a full factory line process starting from SMT to Burn Testing. Burn-in test is done by sampling, where 10 pieces per day of each model that is being manufactured are tested running several testing programs on ambient temperature for 24 hours to check if anything wrong happens.

across Indian, South-East Asian, GCC and African markets, the Honk Kong office also takes care of all the International trading.

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With Pantel Technologies' superior technology at affordable prices being celebrated around the world, it has gained an alliance with none other but one of the world's leading telecommu-

nications operators, Orange. Present in 33 countries, the Group has a total customer base of 224 million customers, including 166 million mobile customers and 15 million broadband internet (ADSL, fibre) customers worldwide. Orange is one of the main European operators for mobile and broadband internet services.

Mauritius Telecom (MT) is yet another Allianz of Pantel Technologies, serving Penta T-Pad customers in Mauritian market. MT is a group of companies comprising Mauritius Telecom Ltd and its subsidiaries: Cellplus Mobile Communications Ltd, Telecom Plus Ltd, CSL and Teleservices Ltd, providing and integrating a full spectrum of services and solutions in the fixed telephony, mobile, Internet and broadband sectors. Mauritius Telecom, the public telecommunications operator of Mauritius is the primary provider of voice, mobile, Internet and data com-





munications services in Mauritius. By the very nature of its business activities, MT has to keep abreast of the latest technology.

"In times to come a lot can be done in Healthcare arena through digitization", thinks Pantel Technologies. Right from the upcoming remote patient monitoring, to Telemedicine 2.0, internet tablets can help in better care of the patients. This would facilitate bedside patient scans, leading to improved accuracy of data collected and an increase in data efficiency. With tablet pc, doctors can also access data at the bedside, the nurses' station, or from various other points of service with fewer disruptions in care. Thus, Pantel Technologies plan to increase the physicians mobility and accessibility through its range of Penta T-Pads. With the possibility of real-time communications, automation of forms, processes, and workflows, it wishes to ease the process for hospitals as well as patient.

Pantel Technologies affordable range of internet tablet pcs also opens avenues for government's e-governance projects. Pantel Technology believes a

Pantel Technologies affordable range of internet tablet pcs also opens avenues for government's e-governance projects. Pantel Technology believes a lot of gaps can be plugged through the use of technology in governance, including corruption.

lot of gaps can be plugged through the use of technology in governance, including corruption. With apt applications, software, and connectivity, the major source for corruption, lag in governmental projects, Intermediaries can be eliminated. With Internet tablet pcs fundamental functionality, information on move; rather than physical file management, through e-file management on cloud services, the information would be available anywhere, anytime for faster and better decisions for better

governance.

Cloud Services and internet tablet pc, are one of the best technological inventions till date. Together they not just make data, content available, useful in various sectors but also secure.

India is a land of opportunity and poverty at the same time. And Pantel Technologies wishes to explore the opportunity by removing poverty. Pantel Technologies believes in giving back to the society. It believes through its technology it has so much to give back, by educating, by aiding them facilities, by connecting them to the world. Pantel Technologies might not be able to provide best of medical equipments, but it promises to connect you through best of doctors through internet, through internet tablet pc. The organization in the same direction has subsidized its rates for rural India.

Thus, with an aim to revolutionize the way people access information on the move, Pantel Technologies is here to make a mark and not just stay!

**By Mansi Madan, Head PTPL
Corporate Communication.**

Chinese Railway System - An Eye Opener

(By Vijender Singh MD Pantel Tech from China)



Beijing-Shanghai high-speed rail. Beijing departure station



The crew to board the Beijing-Shanghai high-speed train



There are also dedicated disabled areas, wheelchair accessible bathrooms and corridors



The trains have 1st class, business and VIP cars, as well as economy class of course.



The train speed is 350 km/hr

WOMAN OF SUBSTANCE IN NEW EMERGING INDIA

There is a huge uproar of women right and safety issues in India, **Opinion Express** explores the story of new confident Indian woman, driving the nation to its new glory. India Inc have incorporated its female population in the mainstream of all sections of life, though the nation must look in the aspect of women empowerment specially in rural areas by promoting education, better health care, skill development programs, wider employment opportunities. **Opinion Express** is pleased to publish a story that highlights woman of substance to change the popular perception about life of women in India



● SALLOLI KUMAR

As a child my earliest memories were about sitting in an airplane, and travelling to some far away land. In the early 80's travelling abroad was still an issue for most Indians. Owing to the fact that my father is from the shipping background, foreign travel and foreign goods was something that we took completely for granted. Back in the 80's, I can remember my school friends looking jeal-

My collage days in comparison were a lot better. It was already the late 90's. I went to the prestigious Lady Sheri Ram Collage in South Delhi, ranked among one of the finest institutions in India. Collage was a lot of fun as there were finally a couple of places to hang out. The liberalization process India began in 1991 had begun to bear results. We as Indians finally had access basic international brands. However unlike today, flaunting a middleclass European, or Japanese car was considered very tony in a cities like Mumbai or New Delhi.

ously at my Japanese pencil box or my American shoes or maybe my German pencil sharpener. My trip to Disney world in Orlando was a point of extremely jealousy among my friends.

This I guess this is a direct indication about how backward the Indian economy was compared to its western counterparts. India was then truly a fourth world country then. Indian's had little or no access to quality goods. Other than a few friends of mine who were really rich, most of my contemporaries could just not afford branded goods. My early memories are about asking my elders about why there were so few types of cars on Delhi roads compared to the U.S, where every car looked different even then.

So other than the times I was abroad the time back home in India was pretty much boring. A city like New Delhi would shut down by 8 pm. There were no Mcdonalds or KFC's where we could go as school kids. Being from South Delhi did not make much of a difference as real estate values were quite low compared to the other big cities around the world.

My collage days in comparison were a lot better. It was already the late 90's. I went to the prestigious Lady Sheri Ram Collage in South Delhi, ranked among one of the finest institutions in India. Collage was a lot of fun as there were finally a couple of places to hang out. The liberalization process India began in 1991 had begun to bear results.

We as Indians finally had access basic international brands. However unlike today, flaunting a middleclass European, or Japanese car was considered very tony in a cities like Mumbai or New Delhi.

Most of my friend's fathers were

now exporters. Exports were the most happening business in the late 90's. The Indian economy was now evolving fast. The cellular phone or the "cell" had just stated is career in India. Finally everyone could connect easily. I remember an instant where I happened to bring a latest Sony phone from Singapore with an in built antenna. It created a flurry among my friends.

During the turn of the millennium, while I was doing my M.A (masters) from Delhi university things had changed fast. Though I always had the privilege of owning luxury cars from the time I can remember, the well heeled in Indian urban centers now had excess to the Merc's and Beemer's.

In the last 10 years since the things have drastically changed in India. The town house where I reside in south Delhi, boasts of square foot rates that can equal most parts of New York City or London. I have malls near my house that house most international high street brands. The DLF Emporio in Vasant Kunj New Delhi has most of the international luxury brands. My life style as a socialite in New Delhi is now comparative with if I

was living in New York or London or even Los Angeles. There are several social events on my social calendar.

From my experience of partying in the European billionaire hot spots like Monte Carlo or St. Tropez, I can safely say that the partying in New Delhi or Mumbai is no longer a compromise. New Delhi being a regional power centre however has a more serious side when it comes to events. I attend events that range from those in honor of incoming heads of state to numerous fashion shows at the India fashion week.

I have also championed the cause of underprivileged children by walking the ramp for several charity shows .This has pushed me to start my own (NGO) Non Government organization that looks into the social cause of helping teenagers from disturbed underprivileged homes to cope with the stresses of being low down in the social and financial hierarchy.

To conclude the story of my life has been pretty much interesting owing to my wide network of friends and social acquaintances and travels. I too have had my share of problems like combating jealousy from peers and social rivals, not being taken too seriously because of my certain level of attractiveness, or even being type cast as those over privileged brats who middle class people like sneer at. But this has never bothered me or slowed me down.

So as a person I consider myself as reasonably successful owing to the multi faceted nature of my work. Being a published columnist, social activist, special educator, ex-model and business women at the same time, can surely be a handful. However I can surely say that I belong to the new genre of urban Indian woman who are not afraid to express themselves and view the world as one global village.....

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BRILLIANCE PERSONIFIED **CARLYTA** IS A GIFT OF BRAZIL TO INDIA

Carlyta is a Brazilian Indi Singer and International Feature Columnist, She excels in singing 'Fusion Songs along with her electrifying performance . Presently she is based in Bombay - India..

She is a trained Jazz and Blues Singer, tutored by main stream Jazz guitarist n maestro Mr. Carlton Keito Fonseca of Sao Paulo Music Academy and By Pt. Chaturvedi in Semi Classical Indian Music .

She has a blessed ability to sing in various International languages, including English, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, French ,Hindi, and almost all languages! A trained - Belly and Flamenco -Salsa dancer, she has combined these aspects in her song compositions and her electrifying fusion performances.



International Performances with her Live Band 'Viva 2K'

Performed with Various International Jazz/Latin Rock /Blues Bands in Hard Rock Cafes, Music Festivals and Concerts in Spain, Paris, Amsterdam, Colombo, Brazil, Nairobi, Surinam, Seychelles, Columbia ,New Zea land Ghana, Indonesia, Frankfurt, Bahrain, Dubai, Fiji, Australia, Malaysia, Thailand and other countries.....

AWARDS on her Hit Indian Film Fusion songs :-

>NBC Achievers' Award winner n IIFA Award nomination 2011 - 'Best Singer International' for the Spanish-Indy Song and Lyrics '(Porque Dime) - 'Le Le Mazale' from the super hit Salman Khan film 'Wanted'and 'Senorita ' (Spanish rendition and Lyrics)

'Young Communicator Award' - 2011



for Performing Arts-Music n Journalism . Women Achiever's Award 2012 b y Young Enviornmentalists in the field of Music , Journalism, Social work and Art.

'Grassroots Grammy Awards'(USA) -Her song "Baila con Baul " (Dance with the Minstrel) is declared as nomination in the Best Fusion song category. Other Hit Songs for Ind Film Industry :-)
Excuse Me Kya Re, Dilli Ki Saardi, Le Le Mazale (Porque No Say from Salman Khan film 'Wanted' -Spanish Lyr and Rendition) and Senorita (Spanish Lyrics) from the Film ZNMB

ASSOCIATIONS

Her major contribution from her concerts goes to 'Hope Foundation' an USA based NGO in India .. She is the Brand Ambassador for India .

Patron Member of 'Healing Touch Foundation' - Working for the well being of HIV positive Children

Patron Ambassador of PAWS (Plants and Animal Welfare Society)-

Creative Core Head - Bombay Art Walk (SoBo)

MEDIA COLUMNIST

International Feature Columnist for Media Mag International - Global Movie (GM) and Opinion Express, CNN News Networks (CNN Mag) - as International Feature Columnist - Mumbai

Anchor /Host and Concept Formats for National Geographic Channel , TLC Channel and Discovery Channel on Indian Heritage n Tourism Canvas in Spanish ,Portuguese and English for Brazilian and Spanish Nat Geo Channels .

Sourced from Mumbai Bureau..



GOPIO LAUNCHES GADAR CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION IN THE USA

The Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO International), in collaboration with GOPIO Chapters of Metro DC and Virginia, held a very successful launch of its GOPIO GADAR Centennial Commemoration in the USA on Saturday, November 3, 2012 starting at 2:00pm at the Embassy of India in Washington, DC.

Hon. Nirupama Rao, India's Ambassador to the USA, was the Chief Guest. Three (3) other Indian Diaspora ambassadors to the United States also participated in the launch program: Hon. Ambassador Bayney Karran of Guyana; Hon. Ambassador Dr Neil Parsan of Trinidad & Tobago; and Hon. Ambassador Subash Mungra of Suriname.

The GOPIO GADAR Centennial Commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Gadar Movement which began in 1913, is planned as a series of commemoration events throughout 2013 in collaboration with several NRI/PIO organizations, government and international agencies, individuals and institutions. It is a fitting tribute to patriots and heroes of the Gadar Movement and deserving of their sacrifices to free India.

The history of the Gadar movement is a testimony of the deep love that the Indian immigrants had for their motherland, India. The Gadarites wanted India freed from the British and did not hesitate to make any sacrifices for the cause of freedom, dignity and prosperity of their motherland. Over 8,000 went back to India to fight for their cause; several Gadarites were imprisoned, many for life, and some were hanged to death. They are our heroes, deserving highest of admiration and deepest respect. The determination, courage and sacrifices of the Gadarites inspired many freedom fighters to continue their mission for India's independence. The Gadar Movement is an integral part of the rich heritage in the United States for the Indian Americans and of Indian history. The Gadarites left an extraordinary legacy for the future generations and a global centennial commemoration is a fitting and well deserved tribute.

The Ministry of Overseas Indian



(Top From l to r.) Dr Renuka Misra (GOPIO National Coordinator, USA); Inder Singh (Chairman of GOPIO International); Hon Bayney Karran (Guyana's Ambassador to USA); Hon Nirupama Rao (India's Ambassador to USA); Hon Neil Parsan (Trinidad & Tobago's Ambassador to USA); Hon. Subash Mungra (Suriname's Ambassador to USA); Ashook Ramsaran (President of GOPIO International); Dr Piyush Agrawal (Senior Vice President of GOPIO International); Jay Bhandari (President of GOPIO chapter of Virginia) and Audience at the program.

Affairs (MOIA) on 15th October, 2012 announced details of the annual convention for overseas Indians, Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD 2013) program which includes GADAR Centennial events at PBD2013 based on GOPIO's initiatives to the Prime Minister's Office and MOIA. These events include: An Oration at the plenary session, a Gadar Exhibit and Hon. Prime Minister's speech on 8th January to make favorable mention of Gadar.

MOIA Press Release on 15th October, 2012 stated that, "Since we are celebrating the centenary of the Gadar Movement in 2013, the PBD Oration this time will be on the Gadar Movement. We will also have an exhibi-

tion on the Gadar Movement".

As GOPIO has done for the Kolkata Memorial unveiled on January 11, 2011 in recognition and remembrance of Indian indentured laborers who left India from 1834-1920, the Centennial Commemoration of Gadar Movement is another GOPIO initiative in our continuing efforts to preserve and promote Indian history, heritage and culture.

The launch event on November 3, 2012 included a lecture/discussion on "The Role of Gadar Movement for India's Independence" by prominent Gadar researchers and historians, a release of the GOPIO publication on "Global Indian Diaspora", distribution of a GOPIO Gadar Centennial



GOPIO-Kochi officials at the convention planning meeting. Fifth from left is former Tourism Minister and Chief Secretary of Karnataka Mr.J. Alexander and next to him are GOPIO Exec. VP Sunny Kulathakal and GOPIO-Kochi President P.C. Cyriac

Commemoration Press/VIP information kit and GOPIO Gadar Centennial lapel pin as well as showing of the GOPIO Gadar Centennial Commemoration documentary.

The launch program included a welcome by Dr Renuka Mishra (GOPIO National Coordinator USA) followed by remarks by Dr. Zafar Iqbal (President, GOPIO Metro DC) and Mr Jay Bhandari (President, GOPIO Virginia). GOPIO chairman Inder Singh delivered a compelling presentation on Role of Gadar Movement for India's Independence; prominent Indian community advocate Dr Rajen Anand spoke on The Importance of the Gadar Movement; and Kewal Kanda of California discussed The Gadar Memorial Hall.

Hon. Ambassador Nirupama Rao spoke glowingly about the launch and positively supportive of GOPIO's initiative and GOPIO Gadar Centennial Commemoration, highlighting GOPIO's initiatives on matters of interest and concern in the Indian Diaspora. She said that "it is a privilege to cooperate with GOPIO in this auspicious venture." Ambassador Bayney Karran, Ambassador Dr Neil Parsan and Ambassador Subash Mungra reiterated the long and lasting bonds of heritage and history between their respective countries and India, with lots of inspiration and encouragement derived from the Gadar Movement for the struggle for independence in their respective countries. Their attendance and participation certainly enhanced the program and made it more global in outreach and appeal.

Remarked program coordinator Dr. Piyush Agrawal, "We are grateful for the overwhelming support of Hon. Ambassador Nirupama Rao as well as the close collaboration of Hon

Dr.Virender K Paul, Minister of Press, Information and Culture at the Indian Embassy, to make this a highly successful program. In addition, I want to thank our organizing team for their individual and collective effort, commitment, enthusiasm and determination. We are also grateful for chapter members, friends, associates and community members who attended in large numbers. We look forward to a very successful the GOPIO Gadar Centennial Commemoration in the USA and Canada, as well as worldwide".

GOPIO COFFEE TABLE BOOK ON GLOBAL INDIAN DIASPORA RELEASED

A Coffee Table Book "Global Indian Diaspora" was released by Hon. Ambassador Nirupama Rao and also presented to Ambassadors Karran, Parsan and Mungra. That was followed by discussion of GOPIO Gadar Centennial Commemoration worldwide and in particular the USA by respectively Mr. Ashook Ramsaran (President of GOPIO International) and Dr Piyush Agrawal (Senior Vice President of GOPIO International). Dr Renuka Mishra concluded the program with thanks and appreciation to all who contributed to its huge success. Then followed the showing of the GOPIO's Gadar Centennial Commemoration documentary and refreshments catered by Woodlands.

MOIA AND KERALA GOVT. GETTING READY TO HOST PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS

The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) and the Kerala Govt. is getting ready to host the 11th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) from January 7-9, 2013 in Kochi, Kerala, India. It will be

inaugurated by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on January 8. The President of India will deliver the valedictory address on January 9 and also confer the Pravasi Bhartiya Samman Awards. The pre-conference seminars will also be organized on January 7 followed by plenary and panels sessions beginning on January 8. Mauritius President Rajkeswur Purryag will be the chief guest.

PBD has become a significant forum to connect the overseas Indians from all over the world and the PBD-2013 will be focusing on more connectivity with overseas Indians. Kerala will be the Partner State of the 11th PBD, which would provide the Diaspora an opportunity to understand the vibrant culture and potential of the State. More than 2000 delegates are expected to participate in PBD-2013 from all over the world

GOPIO PREPARES FOR ANNUAL CONVENTION 2013

GOPIO International plans to hold its annual executive and general council meetings, followed by its conference starting on January 5 afternoon and concluding on January 6 immediately preceding, and in conjunction with Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2013 events of January 7-9, 2013 in Kochi, Kerala, India.

GOPIO-KOCHI GEARS UP FOR GOPIO CONVENTION

GOPIO-Kochi met on December 12 at the Presidency Hotel on the GOPIO-2013 Convention coordination. The meeting was chaired by Chapter Mr.P.C. Cyriac who was former Chief Secretary of Tamil Nadu and was attended by GOPIO 2013 Convention Chairman and GOPIO Executive VP Sunny Kulathakal, GOPIO Convention 2013 Convener T.P. Ibrahim Khan and other officers including Secretary Jose Thomas and Vice president Kurian Abraham. A special guest was former Tourism Minister and Chief Secretary of Karnataka Mr.J. Alexander. Others present at the meeting were Advocate C.V. Prakash, Jose Puthukadan and other committee members.

The arrangements for GOPIO Kochi Convention 2013 were discussed at the meeting. GOPIO Convention Chairman Sunny Kulathakal and Convention Convener Ibrahim Khan briefed the progress of the arrangements to receive nearly 400 delegates from 60 countries for the Kochi Convention 2013.

Why Parsis are India's finest citizens

● Aakar Patel

I'm delighted a Parsi has taken over this week from Ratan Tata as head of Asia's greatest corporation. I have strong feelings in this matter but I don't think they come from prejudice. That would indicate judging without information if not experience and I have plenty of both here.

I went to a Parsi school, the Sir JJ orphanage, in Surat. Thirty-two years ago, there were only four English schools in Surat, then a city of 1.5 million people. Lourdes Convent run by Carmelites, St Xavier's run by Franciscans, Seventh Day Adventist run by Presbyterians and Sir JJ run by Parsis.

Hindus, 90 per cent of the population and 90 per cent of the student body in all four schools built none, though we're quite good at building temples. This aspect of Parsis taking the lead and emulating Europeans to improve the lives of others isn't unusual. If one is observant and looks around, the most civilised things around us are usually not our own contribution. In Bangalore, the Indian Institute of Science, in Mumbai the Tata Memorial Hospital, the National Centre for Performing Arts, the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research and so on.

The other thing is the single most important and most overlooked fact about Tata Sons: it is owned by charitable trusts. Ratan Tata owns less than one per cent of the firm, and Cyrus Mistry, who is now chairman, is also a minority shareholder. Two-thirds of its stock is held by bodies such as the Sir Ratan Tata Trust and the Dorabji Tata Trust, which send their profits, thousands of crores of rupees, to charity.

For a firm with sales of \$100 billion a year, over half the GDP of Pakistan, to be owned by charities is an astonishing fact unequalled anywhere in the world. Like Carnegie, like Rockefeller, like Gates, like Buffet, the Tatas knew to what end they were creating wealth. To improve society.

This made them unusual in a nation where the culture is opportunistic. Our



wealthy credit god for their fortune, not society. The Birlas built India's biggest urban temples and the Ambanis built for themselves the greatest residence in human history. If the creation of wealth has a purpose, as Andrew Carnegie explained it in his writing, Indians haven't learnt it yet.

It is the Parsi Tatas who showed us that wealth was for the advance of society. That is why he builds institutions of science, medicine and culture.

What makes the Parsi special?

He had early contact with the British, as did all of Surat's merchants when they settled Bombay in the 17th century. But it was only the Parsi who left his caste ghetto and engaged with European culture.

Parsis were among only two small Indian communities to absorb Classical music. At the Symphony Orchestra of India today, the audience is 90 per cent Parsi, and of the 20 or so musicians of Indian origin (most are Kazakh or European) almost every single one is Catholic. It does not attract Hindus and Muslims.

This music was about harmony, which is a cultural product. This is not unimportant - Bernard Lewis cites the absence of harmony in culture as the

reason most of the world has been trounced by tiny Europe. It is no coincidence that the only two civilised parts of India are Parsi South Bombay and Catholic Bandra. Along with high culture, Parsis also gave us much of our popular culture.

The Parsis set up modern theatre in Bombay when Wajid Ali Shah was still in Awadh. Khaled Ahmed wrote about this shocking juxtaposition, observed by Zia Mohyeddin.

Parsis made much money on opium and some still hold that against them (I don't). But when they came into wealth, they transformed the way they looked at the world around them, unlike the rest of us.

If we ranked Indians by community, I would place Parsis right on top as the finest Indians. It is true that many outstanding Indian managers, Hindu and Muslim, are running Tata Steel, Tata Motors, the Taj hotels, TCS and all the fine firms that make up the Tata group.

But there is a higher purpose to heading Tata Sons than ensuring the smooth production of Land Rovers and Jaguars, the sale of software and steel and bottled water.

This higher purpose is more secure in the hands of a Parsi.



Strategic Location

- Located in the important coastal industrial zone of the country
- Strategically positioned along international shipping routes
- 200 km from Dhaka
- 45 minutes from Dhaka airport
- 100 km from Chittagong port
- 10 km off the TT and the highway
- 100% owned by BNP & MFI

Existing Assets

Water, Steam, Diesel, Petrochemical Feedstock, Heat Recovery, Natural Gas, Waste Heat, Flare

Existing Licenses

Gas, Steam, Diesel, Petrochemical Feedstock, Heat Recovery, Natural Gas

Capacity

By Fuel

100% capacity based on natural gas and diesel

By Use

Generating Steam and Natural Gas
Process Feedstock, Petrochemical Feedstock, Diesel, Flare

Development Potential & Parent Facility

Phase 1 Assets

- 1 Submerged Energy (SME) tower
- 1 Diesel & Waste Heat boiler
- 1 Diesel Generator (connected to a separate 110 kV grid)
- 1 Diesel flare
- 1 Diesel steam recovery system
- 1 Diesel steam recovery system

Site & Fees

100% owned and operated (MFO) access to Port
Reduced production contribution for generating & process heat of the site using existing equipment & support infrastructure

Key Personnel

- Chairman
- CEO
- Managing Director/Operations
- CFO
- HR
- General
- Plant
- Petrochemical
- Engineering
- Finance
- HR
- Safety & Health



100% owned and operated by Bangladesh Investment and Finance Corporation



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